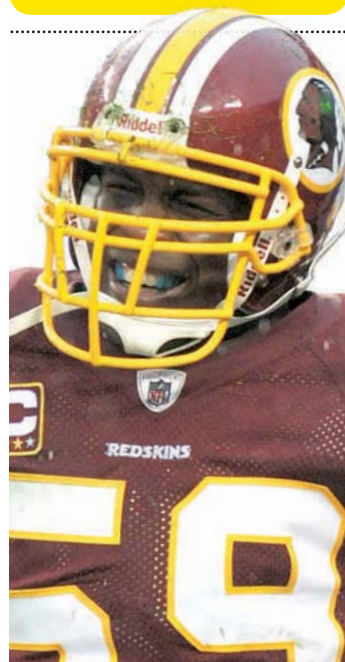


Thursday



BETTER WITH AGE

London Fletcher is making his case for a Pro Bowl selection **11**

THE PLACE TO BE

D.C.'s population has the fastest growth spurt in the country **7**

LOST AT SEA

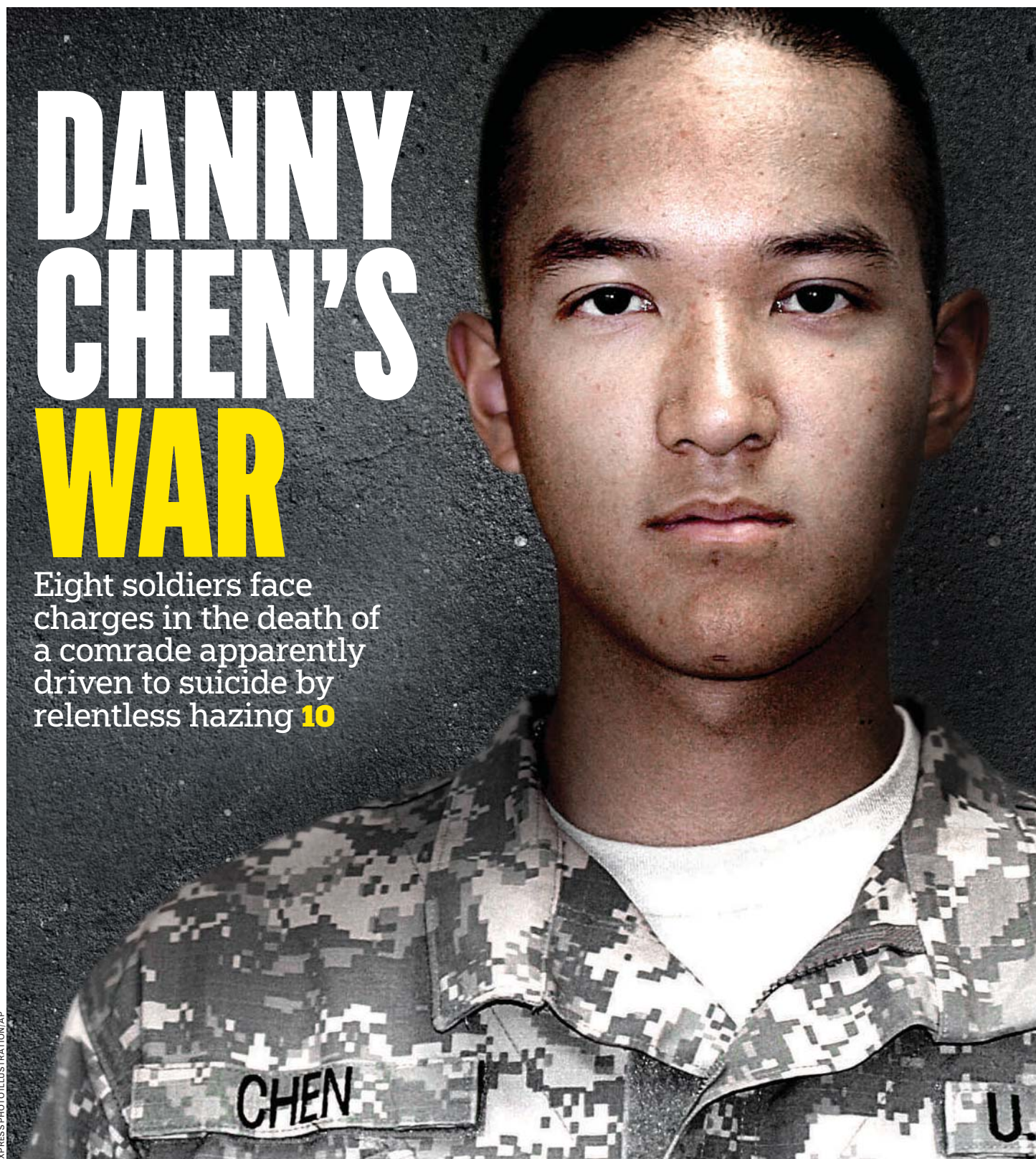
Spielberg's 'Tintin' is visually stunning, but the story lacks substance **13**



DECEMBER 22, 2011 | A PUBLICATION OF *The Washington Post* | NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS, LIFESTYLES | **FREE DAILY**

DANNY CHEN'S WAR

Eight soldiers face charges in the death of a comrade apparently driven to suicide by relentless hazing **10**



EXPRESS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/AP



60 | 46



FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 21

eo

eye openers

EXCUSES

‘But What About All That Pro Bono Work We Do?!’

A Romanian court has ordered the arrest of two self-described witches, Rada Minca and Roxana Lider, on blackmail and extortion charges. Police say the two women approached public figures promising to help them overcome work or love difficulties and break curses. As their victims became hooked on their services, the pair increased their prices. (AP)

AUTOMOTIVE

Man Finally Admits That Minivans Are More Practical

A Utah man who won a \$380,000 Lamborghini in a convenience store chain's contest crashed the car six hours after he got it. The lime green Murcielago Roadster was set to leave for a Las Vegas body shop Wednesday for repairs, just days after David Dopp won it in Maverik stores' "Joe Schmo to Lambo" contest. "Yeah, I got it on Saturday, and I wrecked it on Saturday," Dopp told KSL-TV. (AP)

MOTHER GETS GIFT

Mother Drops Petty Grudge

An Arkansas woman finally has proof that she bought her mother a Christmas gift last year. The package Mary Beth Mauldin sent via the United States Postal Service last December finally arrived in Florida on Dec. 16 — one year and six days after it was mailed from Greenbrier, Ark. Post office officials apologized and said they weren't sure what caused the delay. (AP)

The Big Picture

ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



THE TASK AT HAND IS NOT LEAPFROG: AC Milan's Brazilian forward Robinho, top, fights for the ball against Cagliari midfielder Andrea Cossu on Tuesday during an Italian Serie A football match at Cagliari's Sant'Elia communal stadium. Milan defeated Cagliari, 2-0. (GETTY)

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Obama Urges Deal On Payroll Tax

President to Boehner: 2-month stopgap is the only option

Washington

Careening toward a politically toxic tax hike, President Obama implored House Speaker John Boehner on Wednesday to get behind a two-month stopgap until a longer deal could be struck early next year, calling it the only real way out of a mess that is threatening the paychecks of 160 million workers and isolating House Republicans.

In a weary Washington, the outreach accomplished little. All sides seemed to end the day where they began, with heavy political and economic consequences at stake.

Boehner remained insistent on a full-year extension of the existing payroll tax cut before Jan. 1, urging Obama to haul Senate Democrats back to town to talk to his chosen negotiators. "Let's get this

done today," Boehner told Obama, according to a speaker's aide, who required anonymity to characterize a private conversation.

But the Capitol was emptying out fast, and the Senate showed no inclination to return, having already passed a bipartisan two-month tax cut it thought had settled the matter.

The reliably conservative editorial page of the Wall Street Journal blasted both Boehner and Sen. Mitch McConnell, a GOP leader, for how they handled the matter. "The GOP leaders have somehow



Stalemate

The Game of Risk

Barring any action by Congress, Social Security payroll taxes will go up almost \$20 a week for a worker making a \$50,000 salary — that's \$40 less in a typical paycheck or \$1,000 over the whole year. Almost 2 million people would lose unemployment benefits. The political risks seemed only to deepen for House Republicans. They appeared poised to take the biggest blame for a tax increase even while pushing for a deeper one. (AP)

managed the remarkable feat of being blamed for opposing a one-year extension of a tax holiday that they are surely going to pass," the paper's editorial said.

In a year of legislative brinkmanship remarkable even by Washington standards, the latest fight spilled into the lap of Republican candidates running for president.

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich chastised Congress, particularly the Senate, for failing to extend the 2 percentage point tax cut for a full year: "They can't figure out how to pass a one-year extension, so the Senate leaves town? It's an absurd dereliction of duty."

Rival Mitt Romney refused to take a position, again steering clear of Washington's hot policy debate. But the White House made clear the time for talks was over for this year.

"The negotiating has happened already," presidential spokesman Jay Carney said, referring to the Senate bill the White House insists was sealed with Boehner's blessing. Boehner disputes that he ever gave a nod of support to the two-month tax cut that many in his caucus oppose.

He and other House members call it a poor and unworkable tax policy. BEN FELLER (AP)

In Brief

FORT MEADE, MD.

Defense Rests Case In WikiLeaks Hearing

Lawyers for Pfc. Bradley Manning, the Army intelligence analyst blamed for the biggest national security leak in American history, briskly presented the entirety of his defense Wednesday, a year and half after the young private allegedly handed a trove of classified data to WikiLeaks. Only two witnesses testified. (AP)

WASHINGTON

EPA Tells Nation's Dirty Power Plants: Clean Up

The largest remaining source of uncontrolled toxic air pollution in the U.S., the nation's coal- and oil-fired power plants, will be forced to reduce their emissions or shut down, the Environmental Protection Agency ruled Wednesday. About half of the 1,300 coal- and oil-fired units nationwide still lack modern pollution controls. (AP)

SEATTLE

Obesity Rise Prods Wash. Ferries to Cut Capacity

The Washington state ferry service reduced the capacity of the nation's largest ferry system because people have been packing on the pounds. Coast Guard vessel stability rules that took effect Dec. 1 raised the estimated weight of the average adult passenger to 185 pounds from the previous 160 pounds. (AP)



Sensitive Santas: Many children with autism are especially sensitive to loud noises, jangling music, crowds and unpredictable situations. To give those kids a chance to meet Kriss Kringle, Ohio-based Glimcher Realty Trust recently launched sensitive Santa sessions in its two dozen malls and several service organizations, and autism family groups have recruited low-key Santas who adjust their demeanor to the special needs of their young guests. (AP)

Patient Testimonials

This office always tries to make you feel comfortable, and I appreciate that, as I am one of those folks who [is] not really at ease in the dentist's chair. It means a lot that Dr. Rex and staff have a great "chair-side manner."
Thanks again!

Joyce (October 2011)

Dr. Rex Hoang was there for me in a very difficult situation [and] gave me immediate and appropriate treatment that resulted in relief. I was traveling from out-of-town and they accommodated me immediately.

Steve (September 2011)

Dr. Rex H. Hoang, DMD, PC



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Nation

FAA Updates Pilot Rest Rules

New regulations aim to prevent fatigue, keep travelers safe

Washington

The government told passenger airlines Wednesday they'll have to do more to ensure pilots aren't too tired to fly, nearly three years after the deadly western New York crash of a regional airliner flown by two exhausted pilots.

The Federal Aviation Administration's update of airline pilot work rules, some of which dated to the 1960s, reflects a better understanding of the need for rest and how night shifts and traveling through time zones can increase errors.

"This is a big deal," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said. "This is as far as our government has ever gone" to protect the traveling public from pilot fatigue.

Carriers have two years to adapt

Ending Exhaustion

The new rules would limit the maximum amount of time a pilot can be scheduled to be on duty—including wait time before flights and administrative duties—to between nine and 14 hours, depending on the time of day the pilot starts and the number of time zones crossed. The maximum amount of time pilots could be scheduled to fly would be eight or nine hours, and pilots would get a minimum of 10 hours to rest between duty periods—a two-hour increase. The minimum amount of time off between workweeks would be increased 25 percent, and there would be new limits on how many hours per month pilots could fly. Pilots flying overnight would be allowed fewer hours than pilots flying during the day. (AP)

to the new rules. The FAA estimated the cost to the industry at \$297 million over 10 years, a fraction of the \$2 billion a year that an airline trade association had estimated the draft proposal released by FAA more than a year ago would cost.

The airline industry had opposed the draft rule as too costly for the safety benefits it would achieve. But FAA officials made substantial changes to the final rule to lower the cost. Several expensive

reporting and training requirements were eliminated.

Safety advocates have been urging FAA for more than two decades to update pilot work rules, but previous efforts stalled after airlines and pilots unions were unable to agree on changes. Those efforts were revived after the February 2009 crash near Buffalo, N.Y., that killed 50 people. Families of the dead have lobbied relentlessly for more stringent regulations to fight pilot fatigue. JOAN LOWY (AP)

Gay Couple Share Navy's First Post-Tour Kiss



AFTER 80 DAYS AT SEA, Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citalic Snell, on Wednesday at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, Va. For the first time, the time-honored Navy tradition of using a raffle to choose one lucky sailor to be the first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss went to a lesbian officer.

Hearsay



"This is politics. And if you can't stand the heat in this little kitchen, wait until the Obama's 'Hell's Kitchen' turns up the heat."

— **MITT ROMNEY**, ON FOX NEWS CHANNEL WEDNESDAY SAYING IF NEWT GINGRICH CAN'T HANDLE CRITICISM GENERATED BY NEGATIVE ADS, HE WILL WILT GOING UP AGAINST PRESIDENT OBAMA.

\$335M The amount Bank of America will pay to resolve allegations that its Countrywide unit discriminated against qualified African-American and Hispanic borrowers on home loans from '04 to '07. (AP)

Reports: Killing Spree in Syria

Activists say army's 'organized massacre' kills more than 100

Beirut

As government troops advanced on a village in northwestern Syria, activists said, the terrified residents fled into a valley for fear of being arrested or worse. What happened next, one of the activists said, was "an organized massacre."

The troops surrounded the valley and unleashed a barrage of rockets, tank shells, bombs and gunfire in an hours-long assault, according to two human rights groups

and a witness, killing more than 100 people and leaving no survivors in one of the bloodiest days of a crackdown by President Bashar Assad against a nine-month popular uprising.

The White House said it was "deeply disturbed" by Tuesday's attack, France called it a "murderous spiral," and the Arab League reminded the regime of its responsibilities to protect its civilians.

Members of Syria's opposition said the bloodshed occurred outside the village of Kfar Owaid, about 30 miles from the northern border with Turkey in Idlib province.

"It was an organized massacre," said Rami Abdul-Rahman,

Backstory



President Bashar Assad agreed Monday to allow foreign monitors under an Arab League plan aimed at stopping

the bloodshed. Activists said the intensifying crackdown may be an attempt to crush defectors before the monitors arrive Thursday. The death toll from two days of violence this week topped 200, a figure that includes up to 70 army defectors who were killed Monday while deserting their posts near the city of Idlib, the activists said. (AP)

head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based activist group.

Kfar Owaid is part of the rugged mountainous region of Jabal al-Zawiyah, the scene of clashes and weeks of intense protests.

One Kfar Owaid villager told The Associated Press that scores of unarmed residents and activists had fled to the Budnaya Valley. They were surrounded by troops, said the villager, who identified himself only as Abu Rabiha for fear of reprisal. The troops then opened fire.

Syrian officials have not commented on the allegations.

BASSEM MROUE (AP)

In Brief

MOSCOW

Parliament in Session Despite Disputed Vote

The parliament chosen in a fraud-tainted election that set off protests throughout Russia opened its first session Wednesday with the new speaker, Sergei Naryshkin, promising to allow more genuine debate in an attempt to win back the voters' trust. Naryshkin, 57, until Tuesday had served as chief of staff for President Dmitry Medvedev. (AP)

MEXICO CITY

Port City Fires Police

The police force in the major Gulf coast port city of Veracruz was dissolved on Wednesday, and Mexican officials sent the Navy in to patrol. The Veracruz state government said the decision to lay off 800 police officers and 300 administrative employees is an effort to root out police corruption and start from zero in the state's largest city. (AP)

JOHANNESBURG

Group: Angola Is Missing \$32B in State Funding

Angola's government must account for a staggering \$32 billion missing from state coffers in a country where most suffer immense poverty despite the nation's massive oil wealth, Human Rights Watch said Wednesday. The group said the missing money was identified by the International Monetary Fund in a December report. (AP)

Afghanistan Welcomes Fledgling Major Railroad

Kabul, Afghanistan

Operators ran the first train down Afghanistan's first major railroad Wednesday, clearing the way for a long-awaited service from the northern border that should speed up the U.S. military's crucial supply flow and become a hub for future trade.

A train chugged into a newly built station in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif on Wednesday after a 47-mile trial run from the border with Uzbekistan, said Deputy Public Works Minister Noor Gul Mangal.

The new rail line is the first stage of an ambitious plan to link landlocked Afghanistan to its neighbors' extensive railways for the first time, eventually opening up new trade routes for goods traveling between Europe and Asia.

Afghanistan has never had a functional rail network, though

Coalition

The U.S. has shifted much of its supply line to the north recently from routes going through Pakistan. A U.S. military spokesman says Afghanistan's new railway will be key to supplying American troops—and possibly also withdrawing non-lethal cargo during the U.S. troop pull-out set to begin next year. (AP)

many projects have been begun and later abandoned. So the line from the border town of Hairatan to Mazar-i-Sharif marks a milestone in a violence-wracked country eager for good news.

While many fear instability in Afghanistan after 2014 when most foreign forces leave, others are busy planning for a future in which the country could be a hub in a New Silk Road reconnecting routes from centuries past. (AP)

Space Station-Bound Soyuz Blasts Off



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

A SOYUZ ROCKET LAUNCHES Wednesday from Russia's space facility in Kazakhstan, carrying a new crew for the International Space Station. The astronauts, including an American, are to dock with the space station Friday.

Hearsay

"If they will not hand [al-Hashemi] over, or let him flee or escape, this will lead to problems."

— **NOURI AL-MALIKI**, PRIME MINISTER OF IRAQ, ON WEDNESDAY DEMANDING KURDISH AUTHORITIES HAND OVER SUNNI VICE PRESIDENT TARIQ AL-HASHEMI, WHO FLED TO THE REGION TO ESCAPE AN ARREST WARRANT ON CHARGES HE RAN HIT SQUADS TARGETING OFFICIALS.

30K The number of women in France who officials may recommend have surgery to remove a type of breast implant that investigators say was secretly made with cheap silicone whose medical risks remain unclear. Governments across Europe are hanging on France's decision Friday. The implants were not sold in the U.S. (AP)



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Metro Takes 16 Rail Cars Offline

Officials investigate incident that stalled Blue, Orange lines

Transportation

Metro officials said Wednesday a friction ring came off a Blue Line train because of a “potential hub failure” in Tuesday’s incident that shut down service along two major rail lines for hours.

The transit agency has pulled 16 rail cars from service as part of its investigation.

Those rail cars have 34 hubs that are the same as the one

involved in Tuesday’s incident.

The root cause for the friction ring’s coming off “has not been determined,” Metro officials said in a news release.

The transit agency has also not determined the cause of the possible hub failure.

Metro’s chief spokesman Dan Stessel said the investigation is continuing, and Metro is looking at the brake systems in all 190 of its 5000 series rail cars.

On Tuesday, when the friction ring came off the Blue Line train, there was a spark and smoke. The ring, which is similar to a brake disc on a vehicle, landed between



A friction ring that fell off of a Blue Line train on Tuesday sits on a platform.

the electrified third rail and the running rails of the track, according to Metro officials.

Two Orange Line trains that were behind the Blue Line train

heading in the direction of Vienna were also damaged.

The Blue Line train kept going, and passengers disembarked at the Smithsonian station. The train was then taken out of service.

Roughly 300 passengers on the Orange Line train behind it were stranded when that train “became mechanically disabled after striking the friction ring,” according to Stessel.

Passengers were evacuated, and streets around the L’Enfant Plaza and Smithsonian stops were shut down as crews responded. No major injuries were reported.

DANA HEDGPETH (THE WASHINGTON POST)



PLANS

Holiday Schedule

Due to all the track work this year, Metro riders may expect delays on holiday weekends. But in the Christmas spirit, Metro will be running extra trains on Friday to help the rush to the airport. If you’re in town for the holiday, there will be normal service Saturday and Sunday. (EXPRESS)



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In Brief

BALTIMORE, MD.

Panel Fines Pepco \$1M

The Maryland Public Service Commission fined Pepco \$1 million on Wednesday for failing to maintain its system properly over a period of years and subjecting customers to long outages too often. The commission said the case was initiated after it received an unusually high number of complaints from customers and elected officials regarding Pepco's reliability. (AP)

RICHMOND, VA.

Gingrich Edges Ahead Of Romney in Va. Poll

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has a slight lead over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney among Virginia Republicans in the race for president, according to a new poll released Wednesday by Quinnipiac University. The survey has



Gingrich

Gingrich ahead with 30 percent and Romney trailing at 25 percent among Republican voters. No other candidate tops 9 percent. (TWP)

Obama, Bo Go Holiday Shopping



KEVIN DIETSCH/POOL/BLOOMBERG

PRESIDENT OBAMA LAUGHS as Bo, the first family's dog, meets a new friend during a shopping trip Wednesday in Alexandria. Obama bought a dog bone and a chew toy totalling \$41 at PetSmart before going to other stores to acquire gifts for the rest of his family members, who are already in Hawaii for Christmas.

D.C. Has Fastest Growth in Country

Population increases by 16K since the last census was taken

Washington

The District has gained more than 16,000 residents since spring 2010, growing at a pace that outstripped anything seen in the boom years preceding it.

Census figures released Wednesday estimated the city's population was 618,00 in July, up 2.7 percent since the census in April

3K

The number of building permits approved for new housing units in D.C. this year.

last year marked the first upward tick in half a century. But the current growth spurt — the fastest in the nation — is so rapid that D.C. is on track to draw more newcomers in two years than it did in the entire decade before.

D.C.'s expansion is all the more remarkable compared to the rest of the country, which is experiencing its slowest growth since the end of World War II.

The city's population figures cap a decade of success in maneuvering a

Slow Going

States that prospered during the real estate boom — such as Arizona, Nevada and Florida — were already beginning to show a drop in growth when their populations were officially counted a year ago. Since then, data show the slowdown has spread to other burgeoning areas whose populations had previously withstood much of the dampening effects of the sluggish economy. They include Georgia, South Carolina, Utah and Idaho, whose annual growth over the last two years is now the weakest than at any time in the last decade. (AP)

turnaround in the city's fortunes and its image. Barely 15 years ago, D.C. had a reputation for having streets that wouldn't get plowed after a winter storm and that were crime-ridden. Now it's on lists of cities where young people gravitate, and it is drawing as many young adults as ultra-hip Austin, Texas, and Portland, Ore. Three in four newcomers in recent years have been between the ages of 18 and 34. Very few have been at the extremities, either children or older adults over 55.

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 21

District

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Mid-day Lucky Numbers | 3-6-2 |
| Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.) | 2-5-1 |
| Mid-day DC 4 | 4-0-3-6 |
| Evening DC 4 (Tues.) | 0-8-2-1 |
| Mid-day D.C. Five | 0-1-6-8-3 |
| Evening D.C. Five (Tues.) | 7-2-7-8-1 |

Maryland

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Mid-day Pick 3 | 0-3-6 |
| Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) | 4-3-7 |
| Mid-day Pick 4 | 5-9-8-1 |
| Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) | 1-2-4-2 |
| Match 5 (Tues.) | 12-15-23-24-30 (34) |

Virginia

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Mid-day Pick 3 | 6-4-7 |
| Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) | 7-1-9 |
| Mid-day Pick 4 | 2-8-9-8 |
| Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) | 7-2-8-4 |
| Mid-day Cash 5 | 09-11-12-17-30 |
| Evening Cash 5 (Tues.) | 02-05-09-16-17 |

Multi-State Games

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Mega Millions (Tues.) | 20-24-27-45-51 |
| Mega Ball | 31 |

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Md. Slot Machine Plan Advances

Annapolis, Md.

A Maryland board voted 2-1 on Wednesday to spend \$168 million in taxpayer dollars to lease about 4,700 slot machines for use in what will be the state's largest casino in Anne Arundel County.

The move came even as state officials have lowered their revenue projections to \$420 million from slot machines over the next three fiscal years.

Comptroller Peter Franchot, who voted against leasing the

"I remain disgusted by the fact that we as a state are holding on to this idea that slots are a solution to our fiscal challenges."

— MD. COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

machines, criticized the decision as a predatory scheme to separate working people from money they

can't afford to lose, while using taxpayer money to help enrich private gambling companies.

The state will handle the leasing of the gambling machines so that those that don't perform well in the casino can be replaced with others that are more popular, Martino said. By leasing the machines, the state also is better able to keep up with technological changes, lottery director Stephen Martino said.

Gov. Martin O'Malley and Treasurer Nancy Kopp supported leasing the machines. (AP)



AWARDS

Seeing Green

The third-oldest federal building in D.C., the U.S. Treasury Department's headquarters, has won a much-sought-after green building certification after improving the historic structure's efficiency. The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Treasury Building its LEED Gold certification on Wednesday. (AP)

Christmas CHURCH SPECIAL

EVENTS

EVENTS

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Christmas Masses

December 24

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CHRISTMAS HIGH MASS, 11 P.M. — PRELUDE MUSIC, 10:30 P.M.

December 25

LOW MASS, 8:30 A.M.
CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS WITH HIGH MASS, 11 A.M.

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Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Family Service*
7:30 p.m. Candlelight and Communion*
10:30 p.m. Prelude Music
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Music
7:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion at Wesley United Methodist (Connecticut and Jennifer St. NW)

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

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5:00pm - Sinful Feast

6:00pm - Children's Pageant with Live Nativity
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6:30pm - Choir Concert

7:00pm - Holy Eucharist



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10 pm

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9 pm Candlelight Service

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7:00 PM

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Candlelight and Holy Communion

Christmas Morning
9:00am
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Community invited
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Christmas Day: 10 am Carols and Eucharist
New Year's Day: 10 am Lessons and Carols



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Christmas

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Longest Night Service

December 22 at 7:00 PM

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Christmas Eve

6:30 PM Family Service

Child-friendly service: We share a Christmas story and light glowsticks

8:00 PM Music & Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Jazz Music Special

Services at 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, & 5:30 PM

At 9:30 & 11:00 AM Services

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Christmas at Fourth

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Family Service, 5pm

"An Orderly Account" | Luke 1

Rev. Corey Gray

Christmas Eve Communion Service, 8pm

"The Divine Descent" | Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Robert M. Norris

Candlelight Service, 11pm

"Who Is This Jesus?" | Matthew 1:18-22

Dr. Robert M. Norris

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

Christmas Morning Service, 11am

"Unwrapping the Christmas Gift" | Matthew 1:18-22

Dr. Robert M. Norris



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Cover Story

Bullied To Death?

After a soldier's apparent suicide, his comrades are accused of hazing

New York

Even before the Army sent him to Afghanistan, supporters say, Pvt. Danny Chen was fighting a personal war.

Fellow soldiers at a base in Georgia teased him about his Chinese name, crying out "Chen!" in an exaggerated Asian accent. They called him "Jackie Chen," a reference to Hollywood action star Jackie Chan. People would ask him whether he was Chinese, even though he was a native New Yorker.

At one point, Chen wrote in his diary that he was running out of jokes to respond with.

Then he was sent overseas, and the hazing began: Soldiers dragged him across a floor, pelted him with stones and forced him to hold liquid in his mouth while hanging upside down, according to diary entries and other accounts cited by a community activist.

On Oct. 3, the 19-year-old Chen was found dead in a guardhouse in Afghanistan with what the Army said was apparently a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

On Wednesday, the Army announced charges against eight soldiers in his death, saying Chen was a victim of illegal hazing. Five of those accused were charged with involuntary manslaughter and negligent homicide. The alleged offenses also included maltreatment, assault and threats.

The soldiers are still in Afghanistan but have been relieved of their duties and confined to a different base, the military said. The next step is a hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence for a court-martial. The proceed-



The Soldier

Pvt. Danny Chen, 19, an infantryman, died Oct. 3 from an "apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound" in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, according to a NATO statement. Chen, the U.S.-born son of immigrants who live in New York City and speak no English, indicated to his parents that he was being bullied but also told them that such treatment was "to be expected," the New York Times reported on Oct. 30. Chen was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. (TWP/AP)

ings are expected to be held in Afghanistan.

The military released few details of Chen's death. But family members and community activists said they suspect the bullying may have driven him to suicide.

Eugene Fidell, an expert on military law and president of the National Institute of Military Justice, said he could not recall a similar criminal case.

Fidell said bullying has been a recurring problem for the military. "If there was brutality within the unit, that's a betrayal of the bond of brotherhood," he said.

He added: "Can I imagine some-



A soldier straightens the combat boots of Pvt. Danny Chen on Oct. 20 at Chen's memorial service in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, where Chen was based. Chen died Oct. 3.

"Whether suicide or homicide, those responsible for mistreating Danny are responsible for his death."

— ELIZABETH OUYANG, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF OCA, A CHINESE-AMERICAN ADVOCACY GROUP THAT IS WORKING WITH PVT. DANNY CHEN'S FAMILY.

Meanwhile

Similar Story



If Pvt. Danny Chen did take his own life, he would be the second Asian-American in the military

known to have done so this year after apparently being mistreated by comrades. Marine Lance Cpl. Harry Lew, 21, shot himself on April 3 after being hazed the night before by fellow Marines, the Marine Corps Times reported. The newspaper said Lew was disciplined by two Marines for falling asleep during guard duty in Helmand province. He shot himself the morning after being reprimanded and had scrawled on his arm: "May hate me now, but in the long run this was the right choice I'm sorry my mom deserves the truth." One Marine was charged with cruelty and maltreatment, the newspaper reported. (TWP)

body being bullied in the military to the point of taking his or her own life? Yes. These people are young people. You're at an age of vulnerability as well as strength."

Activists said Chen's case has highlighted the military's poor treatment of Asian-Americans, who remain a tiny percentage of new recruits.

Pentagon officials would not comment Wednesday on the specifics of the case. But Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. John Kirby said hazing is not tolerated.

"That's what this uniform requires. And when we don't, there's a justice system in place to deal with it," Kirby said. "That's what we're seeing here in the case of Private Chen."

Chen's relatives said they were encouraged by the charges.

"We realize that Danny will never return, but it gives us some hope," Yen Tao Chen, his father, said through a translator.

CHRIS HAWLEY (AP)

Dec. 11
vs. New England
Patriots

Dec. 4
vs. New York
Jets

Nov. 6
vs. San
Francisco
49ers



Redskin to the End?



London Fletcher's contract expires at the end of the season, but he sounds like someone who's nowhere

close to retiring. He says he'll be playing somewhere next year and he'd like it to be with the Redskins. While the money must be sorted out, coach Mike Shanahan, above, made Fletcher's return sound like a foregone conclusion. "You want him on your football team," the coach said. "You want him out there as much as you can have him out there." (AP)

"Yeah, it would. To finally say my peers and the fans and the coaches finally get it," he said with another hearty laugh — after he had put a shirt back on. "I lead the league in tackles. I'm a part of a defense that's ranked pretty high in the NFC [fifth] as well. There's a lot of good players in this league, a lot of good players at this position, but I definitely feel good about me."

The fans have finished voting, and players and coaches are mulling their ballots ahead of the formal announcement of the AFC and NFC teams next Tuesday. Hurting Fletcher, as it usually does, is Washington's (5-9) losing record. Helping Fletcher is the respect he has gained for playing so well for so long.

Much like a veteran shortstop who compensates for diminished range by learning to position himself depending on the pitch or the batter, Fletcher has let his football smarts make up for whatever decline in athleticism he has felt with age.

"As you get older, you get wiser. The game definitely slows down for you," Fletcher said. "It's a matter of just understanding how the offense is trying to attack you. Putting yourself in a position to make plays, whether it's cheating a step to right or left, just different things like that. ... When you're young, you may overreact to these things. Now as an older guy you sit back and relax and wait, take a deep breath." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Still Going Strong

Fletcher awaits a Pro Bowl bid as he leads the NFL in tackles again

The Redskins

When London Fletcher peeled off his shirt while listening to a question at his locker Tuesday, a Redskins public relations intern tried to halt the proceedings.

Fletcher — a defensive co-captain, of all people — was violating a team policy that requires a player to be wearing a shirt while being interviewed on camera.

Fletcher objected. "I want cameras on," the bare-chested linebacker said with a smile. "On this 36-year-old body. Whose interview is this? Mine or yours?"

After all, these are the nitty-gritty final days of Pro Bowl voting, and

Fletcher is in need of exposure.

Nearing the end of his 14th season, he's in a familiar spot — leading the league in tackles (146) while wondering whether he'll ever get the all-star recognition he feels he deserves.

Fletcher once called himself "the Susan Lucci of the NFL" because his reliability and productivity had yet to be rewarded with a Pro Bowl nod. He has the most tackles in the NFL since 2000 and has never missed a game in his career heading into Saturday's game against the Minnesota Vikings.

1,658

The number of tackles London Fletcher has since 2000 — the most in the NFL, more than 250 ahead of No. 2 Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens.

223

The number of NFL games Fletcher will have played in a row as of this Sunday's game against the Minnesota Vikings. (AP)

"To be able to perform at a level that I'm performing at and to have done it for so long, it does mean a lot to me — and I don't take it for granted at all. I approach every game ... the same."

— LONDON FLETCHER, WHO HASN'T MISSED A GAME IN HIS CAREER.

Two years ago, Fletcher finally celebrated his first Pro Bowl selection, albeit because Jonathan Vilma of the New Orleans Saints couldn't play, because the game was being held before the Super Bowl for the first time. Last season, Fletcher got in again at the last minute — and only after Brian Urlacher withdrew due to an injury.

Now Fletcher would like to know what it feels like to get in from the get-go, without waiting for someone to drop out. For him, it would mean something extra.



Sports

In Brief

PRO BASKETBALL

Rose Inks Extension

The Chicago Bulls have made it official: Reigning MVP Derrick Rose has



Rose

agreed to a five-year contract extension. The deal extension, which kicks in next season, was announced Wednesday. It is worth approximately \$94 million, a

person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press late Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the team has not released details. (AP)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Fiesta Bowl Officials Won't Face Charges

More than two dozen Arizona politicians who received free game tickets or trips from the Fiesta Bowl will not face criminal charges, Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery said on Wednesday. (AP)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Yale Coach Resigns

Tom Williams resigned as Yale's football coach Wednesday amid a university investigation into whether he lied on his resume about being a candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship while a student at Stanford. (AP)

PRO FOOTBALL

Rodgers Named AP's Top Athlete of the Year

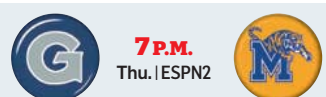
Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is the 2011 Male Athlete of the Year, chosen by members of The Associated Press on Monday, after he turned in an MVP performance in the Green Bay Packers' Super Bowl victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers in February and then went on to lead his team on a long unbeaten run this season. (AP)

Role Reversal for Hoyas, Tigers

Georgetown is now the favorite in 2nd game vs. Memphis

Hoyas Hoops

When the Georgetown men's basketball team defeated then-No. 8 Memphis in Hawaii a month ago, the unranked Hoyas entered the game as the underdog.



When the teams face each other again Thursday at Verizon Center, not only will it mark a rare regular-season rematch between non-conference opponents, but the roles will be reversed.

Jason Clark and the Hoyas (9-1) have won their past seven games and are ranked 16th. The Tigers, meanwhile, are 6-4, having dropped two of three, and did not receive a vote in the Associated Press poll for the first time all season.

It's not difficult to pinpoint where Georgetown's expectation-



Georgetown center Henry Sims shoots in the Hoyas' win over Memphis in Hawaii.

Key to the Game

Thursday's meeting figures to be decided by the team that dictates the tempo. Will Barton (20.7 points per game, 8.6 rebounds) and Joe Jackson (13.0 points) will attempt to speed things up by scoring in transition for Memphis, which ranks 11th nationally in points per game (82.1). In the Nov. 23 meeting, Barton had a team-high 22 points, while Jackson contributed 20. Steady-shooting Georgetown, on the other hand, will want to establish a more deliberate pace against a Tigers defense that has yielded 72 more points seven times. (TWP)

altering surge began: the fifth-place game of the Maui Invitational.

A four-point loss to then-No. 14 Kansas in the opening game of the tournament emboldened the youthful Hoyas. Two days later, a gritty 91-88 overtime triumph over Memphis provided the affirmation they needed. "It showed us that we can compete with anybody," said Clark, who is averaging a team-best 15.5 points per game.

TARIK EL-BASHIR (THE WASHINGTON POST)

English Star Charged With Making Racist Comments

Soccer

For the first time in the long history of English soccer, a player is being prosecuted over words spoken on the field.

Prosecutors said Wednesday that John Terry, one of the country's best-known athletes, racially abused an opponent during an October match. Though the potential penalty — a \$4,000 fine — is relatively small, the case throws soccer's decades-long struggle with racism onto a high-profile stage with deep ramifications

for both the sport and Terry, who captains Chelsea and the English national team.

England has largely eradicated the abuse against black players that blighted the game there in the 1970s and '80s, but recent incidents have raised questions about how far the Premier League has to go. On Tuesday, Liverpool striker Luis Suarez received



Terry

an eight-match ban and a \$62,000 fine from England's Football Association for racially abusing a Manchester United player during another match in October.

The sport's international governing body has a mixed record on the issue. FIFA has launched anti-racism campaigns, but its president, Sepp Blatter, set off a wave of outrage last month by claiming that racist abuse does not exist on the soccer field and suggesting that any incidents could be settled by a handshake at the end of a match. (AP)

TV Lineup

HOYAS HOOPS (7 P.M., ESPN2)

Georgetown faces a last test before the Big East season begins when hosting Memphis.

PRO FOOTBALL (8 P.M., NFLN)

Can the Indianapolis Colts make it two in a row when they face the Houston Texans?

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (8 P.M., ESPN)

Boise State plays Arizona State in the MAACO Bowl in Las Vegas.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (9 P.M., ESPN2; 9 P.M., 11 P.M., CSN)

Illinois tips off against Missouri in St. Louis; Butler visits Stanford, and USC hosts Kansas State.

SOCCER (2:50 P.M., ESPN2)

Chelsea faces Tottenham in the Premier League.

Buffalo Is in the Dark: For all the buzz he's generated, Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow's presence couldn't prevent the Buffalo Bills' home game against Denver on Saturday from being blacked out on local television. The Bills announced Wednesday they still had about 24,000 tickets left for their final home game of the season. Buffalo closes its season with its last three home games blacked out. (AP)



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on the spot

DJ Bent

ANTHOLOGY
OF BOOTY MEMBER

THE ALL-LADY Anthology of Booty is a five-DJ-strong collective whose monthly “Backdoor” party is a place where people can let loose without fear of harassment on the dance floor. Though the events draw LGBT crowds, everyone’s invited. “The parties were never explicitly gay or LGBT,” DJ Bent says. “It’s been oriented toward that because most of us DJs are, and a lot of people who come are, but there’s a really great mix of people.”

That inclusive spirit is reflected

in Booty’s music choices, which include raunchy dancehall and hip-hop; ecstatic Latin and Afro-pop; and deep electronica. DJ Bent will co-host a special edition of “Backdoor” on Christmas Eve.

What’s an Anthology of Booty party like?

A real mix of crowds sharing space in a party atmosphere. It’s a safe space — people will get wild, people will have fun, but violence or harassment will not be tolerated.

Given your anti-sexual harassment stance, why play raunchy songs?

The power of playing stuff like Juvenile’s “Back That Azz Up” and people hardcore booty dancing, grinding, going crazy — how



From left to right: Anthology of Booty DJs Natty Boom, rAt, Trash and Mothershiester. DJ Bent is in the photo that DJ rAt is holding.

does that coexist in a space where you’re talking about not having harassment or this vibe that it’s a meat market? That’s the space we

try to create: a place where people can go wild without someone else taking it [as an invitation to harass].

“People will get wild, people will have fun, but violence or harassment will not be tolerated.”

So, when A.O.B. spins misogynistic jams, it’s a political statement?

All parties are political, whether it’s a fundraiser for Occupy Wall Street or whether it’s Backdoor.

Why throw a party on Christmas Eve?

We [she and co-host DJ Mothershiester] have reasons why we won’t be with our families at this time. And there’s people coming back to D.C. for the holidays who might also need to get out. The holidays are pretty intense for a lot of people.

CHRISTOPHER PORTER

• **Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Sat., 9:30 p.m., free; 877-725-8849, Blackcatdc.com. (U St.-Cardozo)**

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Privy Investigations

Outhouses and other treasures lurk under Alexandria's surface

Modern toilets can barely handle a baby wipe, much less pencils, toys, sugar bowls and muskets. These were all found while excavating a 19th-century privy, or outdoor bathroom, where the Alexandria Courthouse now stands. Privies were treated as personal landfills and are revered at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum for their telling contents — even *those* contents, which tell us what folks ate and which intestinal parasites they carried.

**Sites
Unseen**



What a Civil War privy might have looked like. (This is a model, not life-size.)

While the privies captured our hearts (that musket was still loaded!), taverns, cemeteries, Civil War camps, plantations and Native American settlements also get plenty of love at this one-room museum,

Alexandria Archaeology Museum

► **If You Go:** Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 327, Alexandria; Tue.-Sun., see site for hours, free; 703-746-4399, Alexandriaarchaeology.org.

► **Getting There:** The King Street Metro station is about 1.5 miles away. Walk or take the free trolley (Alexandriava.gov/trolley).

which opened in 1984 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Highlights: The ceaseless construction in NoVa has an upside: These projects offer chances to dig at previously inaccessible sites. A 13,000-year-old arrowhead was found during the building of the Wilson Bridge. A parking lot on

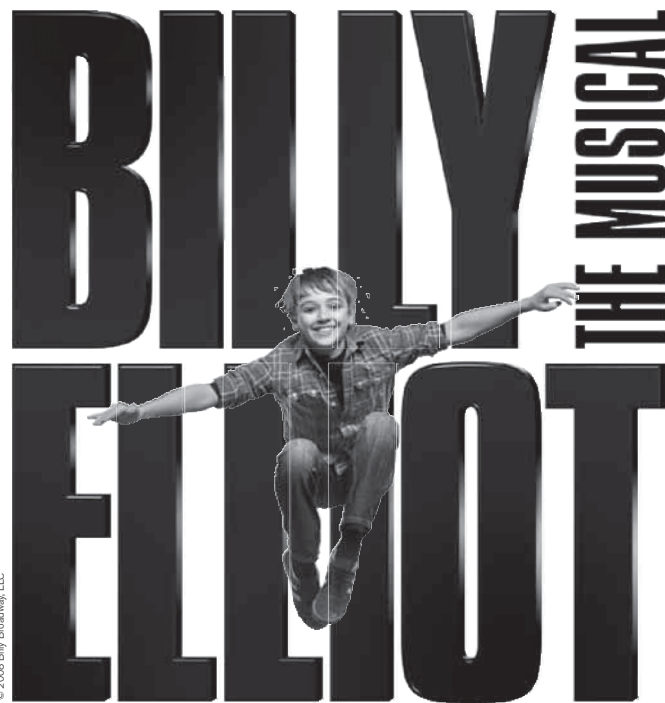
Lee Street yielded a hoard of pub accoutrements — a fife mouthpiece, chamber pots and posset pots. (Posset is hot milk curdled with alcohol. Which of those pots is grosser is up to you.)

As is to be expected, there are several Civil War exhibits, including a Peeps diorama (created for The Washington Post's annual contest) depicting the first Union casualty. Given that Peeps are indestructible, this thing's destined to confuse far-future archaeologists. Near-future archaeologists (aka kids) will be captivated by the dog skeleton named Zark, pottery-shard puzzles and Civil War drummer boy display.

Gift Shelf: Books, Christmas ornaments, "I Dig Alexandria" tees (\$12-\$14). The Peeps diorama is not for sale. **HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)**

"YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE SWEEPED UP!"

—THE WASHINGTON POST



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Sat., Dec. 31 at 8:30, Concert Hall

As a bonus for attending any New Year's Eve event, you're invited to the Grand Foyer Party from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m., free with your Dec. 31 evening performance ticket or receipt from the Roof Terrace Restaurant that evening.

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DECEMBER

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Complimentary Champagne Toast at Midnight!

JANUARY

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Crash Boom Bang w/ Elim • Typefighter • Val Yumm • DJ Natty RicoSa 7

Bach2RockSa 7 & Su 8

JB Smoove (of HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*)*Early Show! 7pm Doors. Mature content. This is a seated show.*Sa 14**BLOWOFF** featuring the DJ Sounds of Bob Mould & Richard Morel 21+ to enter.Sa 14

The Morrison Brothers Band w/ Deaf Dog and the IndictmentsTh 19

ALL GOOD PRESENTS

Collie Buddz w/ Zion I & New KingstonF 20

Bach2Rock *Matinee Show! 11am Doors*Sa 21

Ozomatli w/ Chopteeth Afrofunk Big BandSa 21

D.R.U.G.S. w/ Hit the Lights • Like Moths to Flames • Sparks The Rescue • My ArcadiaTu 24

Coeur De Pirate w/ Leif VollebakkW 25

Cowboy MouthTh 26

Big Head Todd and the MonstersF 27

FEBRUARY

The Kills w/ JEFF The Brotherhood & HuntersTh 2

Kathleen Edwards w/ Hannah GeorgasF 3

Augustana w/ Graffiti 6 & Say ChanceSa 4

Theophilus LondonM 6

George Clinton and Parliament FunkadelicTu 7

The Darkness

w/ Foxy ShazamW 8

ALL GOOD PRESENTS

Rebirth Brass Band w/ The Funk ArkTh 9

Jack's Mannequin w/ Jukebox the Ghost & Allen StoneF 10 & Sa 11

Die AntwoordSu 12

ALL GOOD PRESENTS

Big Gigantic w/ Adventure ClubF 17

ALL GOOD PRESENTS

Tea Leaf Green w/ Ha Ha TonkaSa 18

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Sing It, Live It, Do It

Hark! Make this Christmas noteworthy by performing lyrics from classic carols

Just how fun is riding in a one-horse open sleigh? Not very. It's cold, and it smells like horse. Other Christmas carol lyrics sound like more fun. We chose three events, one good deed and one traffic violation sure to raise your holiday spirits. Not on the list: gathering round virgins, yon or otherwise; and bringing expensive, impractical gifts to a baby. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

"The first noel the angels did say/**was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay**"

"The First Noel" It's tough to find guys out watching their flocks by night these days, but it's easy to find (and help) those that want nothing more than to herd stuff. The Washington Animal Rescue League is collecting donations of pet food, treats, toys and cat litter at the shelter and at various stores across town to benefit shepherds (and retrievers, and lap dogs) that are just weedy to be cuddled, yes they are! If you really want to help out a poor shepherd, a number of them (like Crosby, below, a 1-year-old male shepherd mix) are awaiting permanent homes. ● *Washington Animal Rescue League, 71 Oglethorpe St. NW; through Jan. 3; 202-726-2556, see Warl.org for donation locations.*



"Fall on your knees!/**O hear the angel voices!**"

"O Holy Night" The Carols by Candlelight service at the National Cathedral may be as close to vocal heaven as you can get — plus, they have those padded kneelers, so falling on your knees isn't so painful. Both the men's and the girls' choirs perform traditional Christmas carols. There's also praying, Bible reading and candle-lighting. Granted, no one knows what angels sound like. They could have voices like Gilbert Gottfried's. ● *Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW; Fri. & Sat., 6 p.m., free; 202-537-6200, Nationalcathedral.org.*

"Yuletide carols being sung by a choir/**and folks dressed up like Eskimos**"

"The Christmas Song" You can't wear just any old thing to see 2 million pounds of whimsical ice sculpture. Which is why "ICE!" at the Gaylord National lends out big puffy blue coats that will keep you toasty warm as you scope out frozen characters from "Madagascar" and shoot down the slide carved from ice. The parkas boost slide speed — just make sure yours covers your heinie.

● *Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Md.; through Jan. 8, prices vary; 301-965-2000, Gaylordnational.com.*



"He led them down the streets of town/**right to the traffic cop**/And he only paused a moment/when he heard him holler "Stop!"

"Frosty the Snowman" Ignoring a traffic officer is a bad idea, especially if you'd rather spend \$20 on presents than on a ticket. (The actual charge for Frosty's transgression isn't called jaywalking, by the way — it can be "failure to obey 'don't walk' or wait for traffic signals," "pedestrian walking as to create a hazard," or "failure to obey traffic signal in crosswalk.") The MPD did not respond to requests for comment about whether anthropomorphic snowmen wearing magical hats are exempt from the rules, so use your best judgment.



"Let's take the road before us/**and sing a chorus or two**"

"Sleigh Ride" If you're going to sing a chorus, make it a big one. Audience participation is encouraged — actually, it's kind of the point — for the "Hallelujah" chorus (and the rest of Handel's "Messiah") at the Kennedy Center's "Messiah" sing-along. With a nonprofessional audience, the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, a 200-voice choir and professional soloists, no one cares if you're tone-deaf or making up lyrics ("Ryyyyy-an Gosling, Ryyyyy-an Gosling, Ryan Gosling, Ryan Gosling, Ry-annnn-gos-linnng"). You probably shouldn't sing along with the soloists, though. Get in line early for the free tickets, and bring your own score. ● *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Fri., 8 p.m., free; 202-467-4600, Kennedy-center.org. (Foggy Bottom)*

Weekend Pass | entertainment

The 'Mad' In 'Madcap'

A streak of vaudeville runs through the sick villainy of 'You, Nero's' lunatic title emperor

Stage

American theater has excelled at slapstick and spectacle ever since vaudeville showed up at the turn of the 20th century. We haven't lost our taste for clowning and pageantry, and there's plenty of both in Arena Stage's "You, Nero." They're just a little more nuanced.

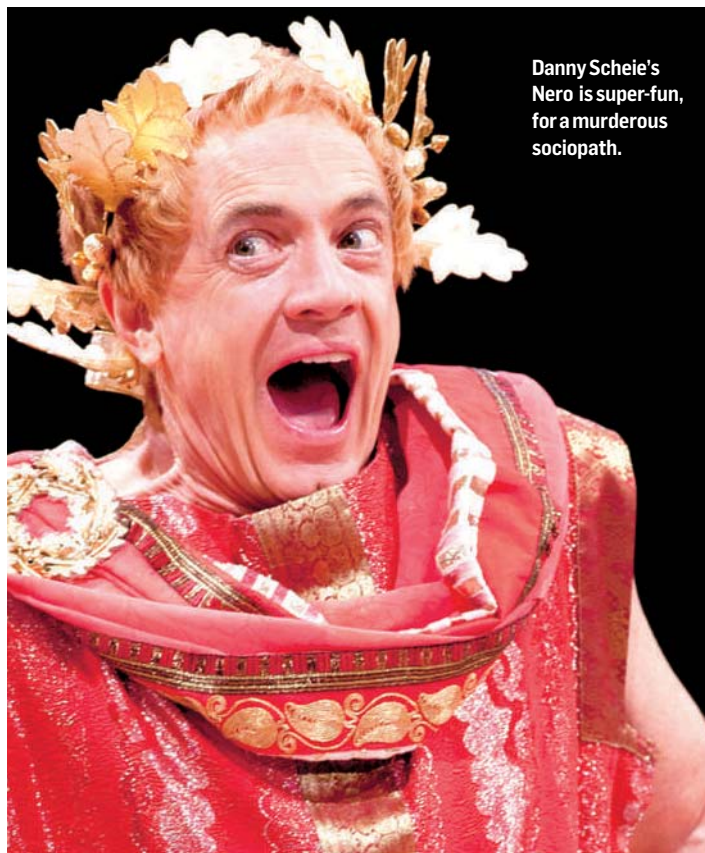
Danny Scheie, who has played the sadistic Roman emperor in three productions of the show (San Francisco, Los Angeles and now D.C.), performs the part with all the campy voices and winking at the audience of a vaudeville comedian. His act is broad and bold, and smacks of nightly improv, but here's the

secret: The source of the schtick is playwright Amy Freed, not Scheie.

"She writes the timing and the delivery in her punctuation," he says. Unlike most playwrights, Freed makes her scripts actor-proof through careful notation. "You're a fool to not pick it up and run with it," says Scheie, "because it keeps you from making really stupid choices."

Now for spectacle. Though "You, Nero" (and, let's face it, a lot of the appeal of ancient Rome) is about decadence, you run into an immediate snag. Regional theater isn't big on excess. A show without the budget for wine fountains and lines of be-togaed chorus girls can't hope to compete with our vision of Roman debauchery.

Scheie doesn't see that as an issue. "Theater is at its most magical when it's at its roughest. We have to find the bare-bones



Danny Scheie's Nero is super-fun, for a murderous sociopath.

"If there's a cute guy in a bikini onstage, we don't care about the discussion of Sophocles."

backstage levers and pulleys and just ask the audience to join in."

In fact, Arena scaled back on its original vision of the show in service of the script. "There was a lot more singing and dancing and lights and smoke and mirrors for a while that eventually got trimmed out," Scheie says.

When the plot is as complex and engaging as "You, Nero's," spectacle becomes a distraction to viewers (rather than compensating for a play's weaknesses, as it too often does). So, gone now is the swimming pool scene with dry ice and bathing beauties.

"If there's a cute guy in a bikini onstage, we don't care about the discussion of Sophocles," Scheie says. "We really don't."

FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

● Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; through Jan. 1, \$55-\$85; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org. (Waterfront/SEU)

Backstory

Struggling playwright Scribonius (Jeff McCarthy) is commissioned to write a play by the creatively evil Nero (Scheie), who wants to rehabilitate his public image. Scribonius thinks he can help Nero become a better person.

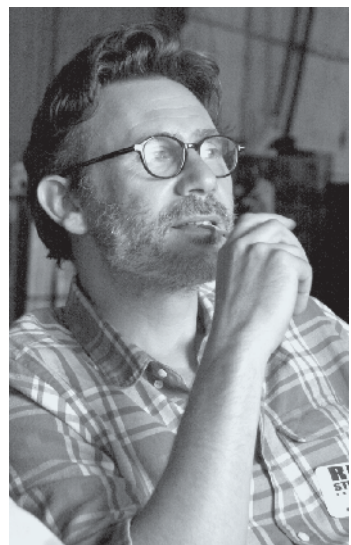
Nostalgia in the Time of Talkies

The new silent flick 'The Artist' is a nod to Hollywood classics

Film

When the inevitable holiday cabin fever strikes and your family tries to escape with a trip to the movies, entice them to "The Artist" with this line: "It's a silent film about silent films; it's in black and white; and there's tap dancing!" When that doesn't work, assure the kids that there's no kissing. And then tell them about the really funny dog. That should do it.

On the surface, the surprisingly appealing, deceptively sim-



Writer-director Michel Hazanavicius embraced cliché in "The Artist."

ple film (opening Friday) is about George Valentin, a silent-movie actor (Jean Dujardin) who falls out of favor when talkies take over. His career path crosses with that of Peppy Miller (Bérénice Bejo), who rises from obscurity to take the silver screen by storm. The story sounds familiar, and writer-director Michel Hazanavicius likes it that way.

"There's a lot of cliché in the movie. I really didn't want to put some irony in it," says Hazanavicius, whose goal was to emulate classic silent movies not only technically, but also plot-wise. "That kind of pure love story, old-fashioned with some kind of melodrama, it really speaks to the way that

"It's not an homage to the silent era — it's truly about Hollywood."

— MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS, WRITER-DIRECTOR OF "THE ARTIST"

the stories are told in the silent movies." Essentially, "The Artist" isn't a silent movie simply because there's almost no dialogue; it's a silent movie because it tells the same stories those early films told.

That doesn't mean Hazanavicius longs for the days of interti-

tles and shaky organ music. The film is crammed with allusions to the great films of classic Hollywood. "There's a lot of 'Sunset Boulevard' — Billy Wilder is my favorite — there's a lot of 'Citizen Kane,' 'Singin' in the Rain,' some 'A Star Is Born'; there's the music from 'Vertigo' at the end. It's not an homage to the silent era — it's truly about Hollywood."

The most obvious allusion, though, was one that was entirely unintentional. George's canine companion is a wirehaired terrier, the same breed of dog as the one that belonged to Nick and Nora Charles in the "Thin Man" series of films. "I've never seen 'The Thin Man,'" admits Hazanavicius. "People say 'The Artist' is like 'The Thin Man,' because of the dog. But it's a coincidence."

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Headed This Way?

A stylist breaks down the unique haircuts of 'Tintin' and 'The Girl'

"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" is a hard-core thriller about a serial killer; "The Adventures of Tintin" is an animated feature about a young journalist and a dog. The new films (both now playing) have little in common other than main characters — Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) and Tintin (a motion-captured Jamie Bell) — with memorable haircuts. Jenny Grafting, owner of Jenny's Salon in Round Hill, Va., talked about the best ways to make these distinctive styles your own. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

THE 'TINTIN'

This spiky-in-the-front cut requires a stylist "familiar with razor cutting and who specializes in male hair," Grafting says. "It would have to be very texturized with a razor or a thinning shear to make it stand up like that in the front." Grafting feels that, with some translation, the "Tintin" could be made more female-friendly: "You'd want some wispy pieces, so it looked less severe." The 'do is not low-maintenance. "To style it would only take five minutes a day, but you would have to get your hair cut way more often. When you have a really strong shape like that, it's very obvious when it grows out." You'd be headed to the salon "every four weeks, for sure."



THE 'LISBETH'

Lisbeth's asymmetrical cut's top layer is longer than the shorn sides underneath (she sometimes spikes the top for extra edge). "You really have to have the swag or the mojo to pull it off," Grafting says. Besides attitude, you need an expert. "It really involves a lot of detail work and a lot of texturizing," she says. The blue-black color further complicates matters. "Black is easy to maintain, but if it has a blue or purple cast over it, that's what's hard to keep." Grafting recommends a metallic shampoo to keep that sheen.

Bottom line: Grafting says she wouldn't be surprised to see "muted versions" of these haircuts catch on, but that neither will take the world by storm à la the "Rachel" of the '90s. "It has to have mass appeal, and people have to be able to face their neighbors."

film riffs



High Marks

Rooney Mara's backpiece in **"THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO"** (now playing) is certainly some impressive ink (even if it is fake). And it places her among the best tattooed characters in cinema. K.P.K.

1 Francis Dolarhyde

The backpiece sported by Ralph Fiennes in 2002's "Red Dragon" gets extra points for being based on etchings by artist-poet William Blake. Literature AND pain, together at last.

2 Max Cady

The worksmanship of the tats adorning Robert De Niro's psycho character in "Cape Fear" leaves something to be desired. He probably got them in prison, and it shows. Which really only ups the creepiness in this 1991 thriller.

3 Leonard Shelby

Guy Pearce's skin art in 2000's "Memento" isn't just for show — it's full of hints that help the amnesiac figure out who killed his wife. And you thought that tulip on your ankle was meaningful.

4 Snake Plissken

In 1981's "Escape From New York," Kurt Russell plays a guy named Snake, who has a snake tattooed on his tummy. Which is a little literal, frankly. Was he worried he'd forget his own nickname?

5 Nikolai Luzhin

Plenty of people get tats to highlight their heritage. In 2007's "Eastern Promises," Viggo Mortensen's mobster opted for Moscow landmark St. Basil's Cathedral on his back. Domes have never looked so menacing.

indies & arties

WRITTEN BY EXPRESS' KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY



In "My Reincarnation," Chögyal Namkhai Norbu and his son, Yeshi, struggle over Yeshi's resistance to his supposed spiritual destiny.

Family Ties and Cultural Duties

Plenty of people feel pressure to go into the family business. For Yeshi Norbu, though, it's a little different. His father, Chögyal Namkhai Norbu, is a Tibetan Buddhist master, and Yeshi was recognized at birth as the reincarnation of another Tibetan Buddhist master. Their story is the subject of "My Reincarnation," a documentary that follows Yeshi and his father as they struggle with Yeshi's desire for a more Western lifestyle and his father's need for him to carry on a spiritual legacy that's seemingly threatened on all sides. Director Jennifer Fox took nearly 20 years to make the film, which includes incredibly intimate moments in this family's life. ▶ *West End Cinema*, 2301 M St. NW; opens Fri.; \$8-\$11; 202-419-3456, Westendcinema.com. (Foggy Bottom)

Weekend Pass | goingoutguide.com



MELINA MARA/TWP

1 Ho-Ho-Hang Ten

We're sort of surprised Lady Gaga hasn't shown up anywhere wearing a Santa suit and water skis. Maybe she's aware that it's already been done. Every year, Santa (yes, the real one!) skis up through National Harbor, accompanied by a Jet-Skiing Grinch, Frosty the Snowman in a dinghy and stunt elves. → **Waterfront Plaza, 137 National Plaza, National Harbor, Md.; Sat., 1 p.m., free; 703-280-1788, Nationalharbor.com, Waterskiingsanta.com.**

2 Next: Afikomen Afterparty

Screw Chinese food and going to the movies: The Gefilte Fish Gala offers the Chosen People a better place to party on Christmas Eve. The evening is mostly about dancing — each dance floor of Muse Lounge will have different types of music and draw different types of crowds. Upstairs is for the 20-somethings, whereas the over-35 crowd is relegated to downstairs. → **Muse Lounge, 717 6th St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation; 202-686-5990, Gefiltefishgala.net. (Gallery Place)**



COURTESY RITZ-CARLTON

3 Willy Wonka Hates These Guys

Most of us are sick of sweet things after weeks of holiday cookies in the office and no savory food anywhere ever. If not, you may (a) be in for an unpleasant visit to the dentist or (b) enjoy the Ritz-Carlton's Chocolate Decadence Buffet. Make reservations for this all-you-can-eat paradise of fudge, hot chocolate, crepes, chocolate waffles, truffles and candy canes. → **Ritz-Carlton, 1150 22nd St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$35; Ritzcarlton.com. (Foggy Bottom)**

5 [Mild Expletive] the Halls

Despite the unprintable title, Jammin' Java's annual Santa Clauster**** is shockingly wholesome. Sixty or so local musicians, led by singer/songwriter Todd Wright, left, jam together in honor of the bearded one and perform classics such as "Santa Baby" (which only gets by the social censors because the fact that it's about Christmas cancels out the fact that it's kind of about prostitution). The site promises "minimal cursing."

→ **Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna; Thu. and Fri., 8 p.m., \$15; 703-255-1566, Jamminjava.com.**



top stops WEEKEND

4 Wu-Tang Clan Ain't Nothin' to Drink Eggnog With

We had to have one event on here that had nothing to do with any seasonal holidays. Instead, celebrate a love of rap and nostalgia for the '90s. Wu-Tang Clan's Christmas Eve show at the State Theatre brings together the rap collective's (living) all-stars: RZA; Raekwon; Method Man, below; and Ghostface Killah, among others. They'll do old favorites and stuff from their newest album, "Legendary Weapons."

→ **State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church; Fri., 8 p.m., \$55; 703-237-0300, Thestatetheatre.com.**



► sound

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THURSDAY

Black Cat: Cobra Collective, Edgewood, 8 p.m., \$8.

Blues Alley: Chaise Lounge, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$20.

Iota: Margot MacDonald, Matt Hutchinson, Phillip Noss Band, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Jammin' Java: "Todd Wright's Ninth Santa Claus-ter-f@%! Christmas Spectacular," 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: The Washington Chorus, 7 p.m., \$15-\$65.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: The Sweet Heaven Kings concert, 6 p.m., free.

Music Center at Strathmore: National Philharmonic, 8 p.m., \$35, ages 7 to 17 free.

Rams Head Tavern: Carbon Leaf, 8 p.m. (Thu.); 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. (Fri.), \$29.50.

Rock & Roll Hotel: "Modern Times Holiday Show," 8 p.m., \$10.

State Theatre: "Santa Jam XV," 7 p.m., \$10.

Twins Jazz: Bobby Muncy, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$10.

U Street Music Hall: Hot Pink Delorean, Tittsworth, DJ Yorker, 10 p.m., \$5, free age 21 and older.

Velvet Lounge: Today and Everything After, Copstabber, Get Railed, LTW, 9 p.m., \$8-\$10.

Warner Theatre: Septime Webre's The Nutcracker, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. (Thu. and Fri.); 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (Sat.), \$40-\$110.

FRIDAY

9:30 Club: The Dance Party, the Static, the Silver Liners, Blackbells, 8 p.m., \$15.

Black Cat: "Bro Ho Ho: A Holiday Music Spectacular," 9 p.m., \$10; "On & On," 9:30 p.m., \$5.

Blues Alley: Yahzarah, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$25.

Bohemian Caverns: The Young Lions, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., \$18.

DC9: "Liberation Dance Party," 9 p.m., free.

Iota: Yell County, El Quatro, X-MC, 9 p.m., \$10.

Jaxx: Nine Days Gone, After Dawn, Distorted Conclusions, Upper 90, the Mesh, the Control, Forbidden Mission, Chopper Trike Rebels, Live N Breathe, White Ash, Chute, Mercury Rising, the Wayside

goingoutguide.com | Weekend Pass

and the Fielding Mellish, 4 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: "Messiah" sing-along, 6 p.m., free; one ticket per person; ticket line starts at 6 p.m. Friday in the Hall of Nations.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Encore Chorale, 6 p.m., free.

Red Palace: Basement Batman, Ravenous, ACME, 9 p.m., \$8; DJ Smudge, 10 p.m., free.

Rock & Roll Hotel: DJ Xiao Yang, 9:30 p.m., free; the Funk Ark, Nappy Riddem, House of Soul, 9 p.m., \$10.

State Theatre: Wu-Tang Clan, 8 p.m., \$55.

Twins Jazz: Jacob Garbus Quintet, 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., \$15.

U Street Music Hall: Kerri Chandler, Jacques Renault, Joe L., 10 p.m., \$10.

Velvet Lounge: The Danvilles, Footwork, 10 p.m., \$8.

SATURDAY

Black Cat: "Backdoor," 9:30 p.m., free.

Blues Alley: Richardson-Herrera, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$18.

Jammin' Java: "Good for the Jews: Putting the Ha! in Hanukkah," 8 p.m., \$20.

Kennedy Center/Concert Hall: Choral Arts Society of Washington presents "Holiday Treasures from Russia," 1 p.m., \$15-\$65

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Beltway Brass Quintet, 6 p.m., free;

Beltway Brass Quintet, noon, free.

Twins Jazz: Aaron Seeber Quartet, 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., \$15.

U Street Music Hall: "U Halliday Party," 10 p.m., \$10, free age 21 and older.

SUNDAY

Black Cat: "James Brown Death-Mas Holiday Bash," 9 p.m., \$5.

Jammin' Java: "It's a Fu@*in SUPER bob Christmas!!" 9 p.m., \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: "All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam," 6 p.m., free.

MONDAY

Black Cat: Supreme Commander, Musicband, Death by Sexy, 8 p.m., \$8.

Blues Alley: Dick Morgan, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$22.

Galaxy Hut: Cotton Candy, Alice Despard, Girl Chorus, 9 p.m., \$5.

Jammin' Java: "2nd Annual Boxing Day Bonanza," 8 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Bob Perilla's Big Hillbilly Bluegrass, 6 p.m., free.

Rams Head Tavern: Stephen Kellogg & the Sixers, Madi Diaz, 8 p.m., \$25.

TUESDAY

9:30 Club: Thursday, Mewithoutyou, Screaming Females, Make Do and Mend, Aficionado, \$18.

Birchmere: Ocean Orchestra, Washington Revels' Singers, 7:30 p.m., \$25.

Bohemian Caverns: Candace Coles, 7 p.m., \$10.

Iota: Chopsteeth Afrofunk Big Band, 8:30 p.m., \$15.

Jammin' Java: Corey Gray and the Dinobabies, Feel Free, Marly Dumarz, 8 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door.

Kennedy Center/Millennium Stage: Jazz by Project Natale, 6 p.m., free.

Twins Jazz: Abe Ovadia Group, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$10.

sight

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American Painting: "Small Treasures," small-scale works by Artists of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, gallery artists and guest artists, through Jan. 28. 5118 MacArthur Blvd. NW; 202-244-3244.

Arlington Arts Center: "Fall Solos 2011," works by Arden Bendler Browning, David D'Orio, Matt Dunn, Jason Irla, Stephanie Elaine Robbins, Rachel Sitkin and Chloe Watson, through Dec. 30. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, Findyourartist.org.

Art Museum of the Americas: "Traveling Light: 5 Chilean Artists And Common Place," site-specific art
Continued from page E10

venues

→ **9:30 CLUB:** 815 V ST. NW; 202-265-0930, 930.COM.

→ **BIRCHMERE:** 3701 MOUNT VERNON AVE., ALEXANDRIA; 703-549-7500, BIRCHMERE.COM.

→ **BLACK CAT:** 1811 14TH ST. NW; 202-667-7960, BLACKCATDC.COM.

→ **BLUES ALLEY:** 1073 WISCONSIN AVE. NW; 202-337-4141, BLUESALLEY.COM.

→ **BOHEMIAN CAVERNS:** 2003 11TH ST. NW; 202-299-0800, BOHEMIANCAVERNS.COM.

→ **COMET PING PONG:** 5037 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW; 202-364-0404, COMETPINGPONG.COM.

→ **DAR CONSTITUTION HALL:** 18TH AND C STREETS NW; 202-628-4780, DAR.ORG/CONTHALL.

→ **DC9:** 1940 NINTH ST. NW; 202-483-5000, DCNINE.COM.

→ **GALAXY HUT:** 2711 WILSON BLVD., ARLINGTON; 703-525-8646, MYSPACE.COM/GALAXYHUT.

→ **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY:** PATRIOT CENTER: 4500 PATRIOT CIRCLE, FAIRFAX; 202-397-7328, 703-993-3000, PATRIOTCENTER.COM.

→ **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:** LISNER AUDITORIUM: 730 21ST ST. NW; 202-994-6800, LISNER.ORG.

→ **IOTA CLUB & CAFE:** 2832 WILSON BLVD., ARLINGTON; 703-522-8340, IOTACLUBANDCAFE.COM.

→ **JAMMIN' JAVA:** 227 MAPLE AVE. E., VIENNA; 703-255-1566, JAMMINJAVA.COM.

→ **JAXX:** 6355 ROLLING ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA.; 703-569-5940, JAXXROXX.COM.

→ **KENNEDY CENTER:** 2700 F ST. NW; 202-467-4600, 800-444-1324, KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG.

→ **MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE:** 5301 TUCKERMAN LANE, NORTH BETHESDA; 301-581-5100, STRATHMORE.ORG.

→ **RAMS HEAD TAVERN:** 33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS, MD.; 410-268-4545, RAMS-HEADTAVERN.COM.

→ **RED PALACE:** 1212 H ST. NE; 202-399-3201, REDPALACEDC.COM.

→ **ROCK & ROLL HOTEL:** 1353 H ST. NE; 202-388-7625, ROCKANDROLLHOTELDC.COM.

→ **STATE THEATRE:** 220 N. WASHINGTON ST., FALLS CHURCH; 703-237-0300, THESTATETHEATRE.COM.

→ **TWINS JAZZ:** 1344 U ST. NW; 202-234-0072, TWINSJAZZ.COM.

→ **U STREET MUSIC HALL:** 1115 U ST. NW; 202-588-1880, USTREETMUSICALL.COM.

→ **VELVET LOUNGE:** 915 U ST. NW; 202-462-3213, VELVETLOUNGEDC.COM.

→ **WARNER THEATRE:** 13TH AND E STREETS NW; 202-783-4000.

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| FRI 23 | BRO HO HO: JESSE ELLIOTT (THESE UNITED STATES) REVIVAL (SOLO), JOHN BUSTINE, BRANDON BUTLER & MORE! \$10 |
| FRI 23 | FRIDAY NIGHT FRIGHTS: TWO EPISODES OF TALES FROM THE CRYPT & DRINK SPECIALS \$FREE 7:00 |
| FRI 23 | ON & ON: DJS AUTOROCK & DANNY HARRIS \$5 |
| SAT 24 | A SPECIAL HELLMOUTH HAPPY HOUR: BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER THE MOVIE! FREE 7:00 |
| SAT 24 | BACKDOOR: DJS MOTHERSHESTER & BENT \$FREE |
| SUN 25 | 3RD ANNUAL JAMES BROWN DEATH-MAS HOLIDAY BASH w/ SOUL CALL PAUL \$5 |
| MON 26 | SUPREME COMMANDER MUSICBAND DEATH BY SEXY \$8 |
| TUE 27 | THE PLASTIC TRAPS |
| WED 28 | CHAIN & THE GANG HEAVY BREATHING \$10 |
| THU 29 | (STOP WORRYING AND) LOVE THE BOMB THE ELECTRICUTIONS HIGHWAY CROSS \$8 |
| FRI 30 | BIO RITMO ALMA TROPICALIA \$15 |
| FRI 30 | MODERN WORLD: \$FREE DJS JAKE STARR, DIANAMATIC, MAD SQUIRREL, ANDI SUPREME |
| SAT 31 | BLACK CAT NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL w/ PEACHES O'DELL & HER ORCHESTRA TONY ANTHONY & HIS MALVIVANTS DJ DREDD & GRAP LUYA \$25 |
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Continued from page E9

installations by Catalina Bauer, Rodrigo Canala, Rodrigo Galecio, Gerardo Pulido and Tomas Rivas that focus on contemporary art and its interconnection with politics, through Jan. 22. 201 18th St. NW; 202-458-6016, Museum.oas.org.

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Family Matters: Portraits From the Qing Court," portraits, jewelry and other objects

from the imperial family that shaped the Qing Dynasty from the early to mid-18th century; "Powerplay: China's Empress Dowager," Chinese dynastic tradition meets modern photographic techniques and aesthetics in this series of photographs capturing the Grand Empress Dowager Cixi, through Jan. 29. "Reinventing the Wheel: Japanese Ceramics 1930 to 2000," recent Japa-

nese pottery that reflects how potters used ancient methods to create modern forms. 1050 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, Asia.si.edu.

Artisphere: "At Home in Virginia," items hand-made by Virginia artisans show how art can become more than something to look at, through Jan. 8. "Robert Hoffman: The Largest Collection of Handcrafted Harmonica Cases in the

World," harmonica cases created by Robert "Hoff" Hoffman with help from many artists across the country will be on display, through Jan. 28. 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-875-1100, Artisphere.com.

Athenaeum: Into the Light, a striking display of two artistic mediums, featuring ceramicist Victoria Shaheen's installation made up of life-size light

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINATIONS

6 BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTOR: JEAN DUJARDIN
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: BERENICE BEJO
BEST DIRECTOR: MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS
BEST SCREENPLAY: MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS
BEST SCORE: LUDOVIC BOURCE

WINNER

BEST PICTURE


BEST SCORE - LUDOVIC BOURCE
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The ARTIST

THOMAS LANGMANN PRESENTS A FILM BY MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS



PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
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A DISTURBING IMAGE AND A CRUDE GESTURE
www.FACEBOOK.COM/WEINSTEINCO www.THEARTISTMOVIE.NET

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS START TOMORROW
SORRY NO PASSES

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINATIONS

3 BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTRESS: MICHELLE WILLIAMS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: KENNETH BRANAGH

2 SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST ACTRESS: MICHELLE WILLIAMS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: KENNETH BRANAGH

4 CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST ACTRESS: MICHELLE WILLIAMS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: KENNETH BRANAGH

WINNER

BEST ACTRESS MICHELLE WILLIAMS

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bulb clusters that play with light and shadow, and photographer Esther Yi's mordancage-processed silver gelatin prints, that imbue classical fine art images with a degraded, peeling appearance, through Jan. 22. 201 Prince St., Alexandria; 703-548-0035, Nvfaa.org.

Carroll Square Gallery: "Artwork by Tracy's Kids," drawings, paintings and sculpture created by participants in Tracy's Kids, a program that helps children with cancer and their families, through Jan. 13. 975 F St. NW; 202-624-8643.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: For their first exhibition in the United States, Australian artists Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro will explore the aspiration of space travel with the necessity of food consumption. Working with statistics related to food, beverages, and household goods, the artistic duo propose to physically illustrate what an astronaut — consuming only the goods of the "everyman" — would require on a journey to Mars. At the conclusion of the exhibition, the contents of the display will be given away, creating an event to highlight existing cycles of production, consumption and distribution, through March 11. "30 Americans," a survey of work by African-American artists from the past 30 years, through Feb. 12. "Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro: Are We There Yet?," the Australian artists show how much food, calculated with statistics, it would take for an astronaut to remain well-fed during a journey to Mars, through March 11. "Strange Fruit," an exploration of African-American identity through photographs and video works by Hank Willis Thomas, through Jan. 16. The Exceptional Everyday: Design Post-Process, dynamic work by 12 contemporary Norwegian designers, through Jan. 22. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, Corcoran.org.

Fairfax Art League: "Open House & Holiday Show," works by local artists are on display, through Jan. 1. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax; 703-273-2377, Fairfaxartleague.com.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible," this exhibit explores the translation and influence of the King James Bible, through Jan. 15. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-4600, Folger.edu.

Foundry Gallery: "Lens. Paper? Canvas!," photography by Sarah Alexander, through Dec. 30. 1314 18th St. NW; 202-

463-0203.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Ancient Chinese Jades and Bronzes," more than 100 pieces in jade and bronze showing the Liangzhu culture and its impact on future art; "Arts of Japan," springtime cherry blossoms and cherry maples are only a small sample of how the seasons influence Japanese art, through March 4. "Chinese Ceramics: 10th-13th Cen-

tury," pottery from the Song dynasty (960-1279); "Chinese Flowers," part of the museum's ongoing "Seasons" exhibition, view paintings of Chinese flora specific to each quarter of the calendar, through Jan. 8. "Cranes and Clouds: The Korean Art of Ceramic Inlay," an exhibit Korean ceramic decoration known as sanggam, the technique of inlaying white and black pigments to create fig-

ures, "Japanese Screens," part of the museum's ongoing "Seasons" exhibition, a rotating set of screens painted to match different times of year, through Jan. 22. "Silk Road Luxuries From China," gold and silver objects and other luxury items made in China from the sixth through eighth centuries; "Sweet Silent Thought: Whistler's Interiors," a look at the recurring themes of read-

ing, music, reverie and studio practice in the works of James McNeill Whistler, through July 1. "Tea," from stoneware to porcelain, tea utensils demonstrate the changing of the seasons, through March 4. "The Peacock Room Comes to America," some of the museum's most iconic pieces will be displayed in a room, designed by James McNeill Whistler,

Continued on page E13

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PRODUCED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG KATHLEEN KENNEDY BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MICHAEL MORPURGO SCREENPLAY BY LEE HALL AND RICHARD CURTIS
DIRECTED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG

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that is meant to re-create a room in the home of the museum's founder, Charles Lang Freer. Jefferson Drive and 12th Street SW; 202-633-1000, Asia.si.edu.

Gallery 555: "'Tis the Season," works by Laurie Breen, Daniel Calder, Julie Girardini, Jodi, Ron Loyd, Georgia Nassikas, Novie Trump and Lisa Rosenstein, through Jan. 13. 555 12th St. NW; 202-393-1409, Gallery555dc.com.

Goethe-Institut: "On the Lakeshore ... and Other Stories: Photographer Iris Janke," works by contemporary German photographer Iris Janke and two American counterparts, Sara J. Winston and Kaitlin Jencso, examine themes of self-identity, through Jan. 27. 812 Seventh

St. NW; 202-289-1200, Goethe.de/ins/us/was/enindex.htm.

LAST CHANCE Hemphill: Robin Rose: The Big Payback, each of the paintings in "The Big Payback" is associated with a piece of music by one of Rose's musical heroes, Thu. and Fri. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, Hemphillfinearts.com.

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden: "Andy Warhol: Shadows," more than 100 brightly colored, silk-screened canvases that portray photographs of shadows, one of the artist's more grandiose pieces of artistic criticism. Hung side by side, the paintings measure 450 linear feet and are meant to both suggest and mock the bold strokes of the abstract impres-

sionist movement, through Jan. 15.

"Black Box: Ali Kazma," video installation by the Turkish artist, through April 30. "Directions: Empire 3," the exhibition examines the ongoing influence of Andy Warhol's groundbreaking film "Empire" (1964). The original work by Warhol will be displayed alongside "Bootleg (Empire)" (1997), an unauthorized videotaping of an "Empire" screening by Scottish artist Douglas Gordon, and "Empire 24/7" (1999-2004), a record of a live stream of still images of the Empire State Building by German Web-art pioneer Wolfgang Staehle, through Feb. 26. Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Hirshhorn.si.edu.

LAST CHANCE International Arts & Artists' Hillyer Art Space: "Edward Purcell: Head Wound," drawings by the artist recall illustration techniques used in early medical texts, through Fri. "Nam Le: Cycles of Life," sculptures by the artist focus on the repetitive, rotational or angular to reflect on the life cycles, through Fri. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0680, Artsandartists.org.

International Visions: "Stanley Agbontaen: A Celebration of Life," paintings by Nigerian artist Stanley Agbontaen capture the country's people and daily rituals, through Jan. 7. 2629 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-234-5112, Intervisions.com.

Koshland Science Museum: "Earth

Lab: Degrees of Change," an interactive exhibit looking at climate change explores the impacts and lets visitors decide the best response. Sixth and E streets NW; 202-334-1201, Koshland-science-museum.org.

Mexican Cultural Institute: "Conversion," photography by Muriel Hasbun and Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, through Feb. 4. "Maremagnum," photography by Jordi Socias, through Feb. 4. 2829 16th St. NW; 202-728-1628, Portal.sre.gob.mx.

National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center: "Art and Science: Highlights From the Collection of the National Academy of Sciences," a display of artwork that explores

Continued on page E16

Local movie times

DISTRICT

AMC Loews Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:40-4:10-9:50
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:20-5:15-8:15-11:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 5:20
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:00-12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Special 12:01AM: (I) 12:01AM
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: 10:45-1:05-3:15-5:30-7:50-10:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 8:10-11:15
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: (I) 4:00-7:30-10:40
The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: (I) 10:15-1:00
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 1:20-7:00
The Descendants (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (I) 10:50-1:30-4:30-7:20-10:00
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) Digital Presentation: 10:30-2:00-5:40-9:15
J. Edgar (R) Digital Presentation: 11:00-2:15
Hugo (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:20AM
Young Adult (R) 10:00-12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 12:00-3:30-7:10-10:50
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 10:35-1:50-5:15-8:30-11:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 11:15-1:40-4:15-6:30-9:00
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 10:10-1:40-4:05-7:05-10:10
The Muppets (PG) (I) 10:20-1:10-3:45-6:40-9:20

AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 12:00-3:30-7:00-10:30

AMC Mazza Gallerie
5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW www.AMCTheatres.com

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Digital Presentation: 12:00-10:25
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 4:10-7:20-10:10
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21 after 6:00 pm; Digital Presentation: 2:10-5:00-7:40-10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21 after 6:00 pm; Digital Presentation: (I) 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:30-5:10-7:50
Hugo (PG) Digital Presentation: 1:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 12:10-3:40-7:10-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 12:10-2:20-4:40-7:00-9:15
The Muppets (PG) (I) 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50

Avalon
5612 Connecticut Avenue www.theavalon.org

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 1:15-4:45-8:15
Hugo (PG) 2:00-5:00-8:00

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street NW www.landmarktheatres.com

The Descendants (R) 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40
Tomboy (NR) 1:10-3:20-5:30-7:40-9:50
Le Havre (NR) 12:25-2:35-7:15
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) (I) 12:30-2:00-3:30-5:00-6:30-8:00-9:30
A Dangerous Method (R) (I) 12:15-1:45-2:30-4:15-5:00-6:45-7:30-9:15-9:55
Shame (NC-17) 12:45-3:15-4:45-5:45-8:15-9:45

Lincoln Theatre
1215 U Street NW www.thelincoltheatre.org

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 1:00-4:00-7:30

Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14
707 Seventh Street NW www.regalcinemas.com

Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 12:35-6:55-9:45
The Sitter (R) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 3:00-10:20
Young Adult (R) 12:05-2:40-5:00-7:45-10:15
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 12:00-1:30-3:30-5:20-7:00-9:00-10:30
Hugo (PG) 3:40
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 11:50-3:00-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:30-10:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 11:40-12:10-1:50-2:20-4:00-4:30-6:10-6:50-8:30-9:00
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) 11:55-12:50-2:50-5:10-7:40-10:10
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1:50-4:30-7:15-9:55

The Sitter (R) 12:30-5:40-8:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 12:40-1:40-4:10-4:50-7:10-7:50-10:00-10:40
The Muppets (PG) 11:45-2:25-4:55-7:30-10:05

West End Cinema
2301 M Street NW http://westendcinema.com/

King of Devil's Island (Kongen av Bastoy) (NR) English Subtitles: 2:00-4:30-7:20-9:50
Drive (R) 10:00
Margin Call (R) 3:00-5:20-7:40
Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 5:00-9:40
Melancholia (R) 2:00-7:00

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road www.afi.com/silver

Shame (NC-17) NO PASSES: (I) 1:25-3:30-5:35-7:40-9:45
My Week with Marilyn (R) 1:20-3:20-5:25-7:30-9:35
The Way (PG-13) 11:00AM
It's a Wonderful Life (1946) (G) 6:45
One, Two, Three (1961) (NR) 9:20
Margin Call (R) 11:05AM
The Bullet Christmas Carol (G) 5:00
Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker Encore (NR) NO PASSES: (I) 2:00

AMC Loews Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:00-4:00-8:15
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:15-1:10-4:05-7:00-10:00
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:20-1:45-3:50-6:30-9:00
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 2:00-5:00-7:40-10:20
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: 10:20-12:30-2:40-4:45-7:10-9:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:30-1:20-4:30-7:20-10:10
The Muppets (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:40-2:20-5:15-8:00-10:30
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 1:30-6:45
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:40-12:05-3:25-6:45-10:05

AMC Loews White Flint 5
11301 Rockville Pike www.AMCTheatres.com

Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 9:45-12:40-3:50-6:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:15-1:15-4:30-7:55-10:55
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) Digital Presentation: 12:10-3:35-7:05-10:30
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 10:00-1:00-4:15-7:40-10:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 10:30-1:30-4:45-7:20-10:00

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way www.AMCTheatres.com

Happy Feet Two in 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 1:20-6:30
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:30-4:50-10:30
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:00-1:10-4:20-7:40-10:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:20-8:45
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40-8:00-10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:05-1:00-4:05-7:10-10:15
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 2:10-7:30
Happy Feet Two (PG) Digital Presentation: 10:30-3:50-9:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 11:00-12:00-2:30-3:30-6:00-7:00-9:30-10:40
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:20-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 11:10-2:00-5:00-7:50-10:35
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 10:20-1:05-4:00-6:50-9:40

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue www.landmarktheatres.com

Young Adult (R) (I) 12:55-3:10-5:25-7:45-9:55
The Descendants (R) 12:30-1:30-3:15-4:15-7:05-8:45-9:45
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) (I) 1:00-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00
My Week with Marilyn (R) 2:20-4:45-7:30-9:50
A Dangerous Method (R) (I) 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:35
Shame (NC-17) 2:10-4:40-6:00-7:15-9:40

Regal Bethesda 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue www.regalcinemas.com

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 1:00-3:30-4:30-7:00-8:00-10:25
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) (I) 1:20-4:00-7:10-9:40
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 2:00-2:50-4:10-5:10-6:40-7:20-9:00-9:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 2:20-5:00-7:40-10:20
The Sitter (R) 1:15-3:20-5:20-7:50-9:55
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 1:45-3:40-4:40-6:50-7:45-9:50-10:30

Regal Hyattsville Royale Stadium 14
6505 America Blvd.

New Year's Eve (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55
Young Adult (R) 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 12:00-1:10-3:30-4:40-7:00-8:10-10:25
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1:20-3:15-4:00-7:25-10:05
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 12:10-1:25-4:45-7:10-7:50-10:10-10:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 12:00-12:30-1:00-2:10-2:40-3:10-4:20-4:50-5:20-7:00-7:30-8:10-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30
The Sitter (R) 12:50-3:00-5:10-7:35-10:00
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 12:15-1:15-3:25-4:35-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45

Regal Majestic 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive

Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 12:50-5:35-10:15
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: (I) 12:45-2:45-4:50-7:05-9:10
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 2:25-7:55-10:40
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: (I) 7:15-10:10
The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: (I) 12:10-2:35-4:55
Young Adult (R) 1:05-3:30-6:20-8:40-11:00
The Descendants (R) 1:55-4:30-7:35-10:25
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 12:05-1:25-2:15-3:35-4:45-6:00-6:55-8:10-9:35-10:20
Hugo (PG) 5:10
Arthur Christmas (PG) 3:15-7:50
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) 12:55-1:40-4:10-6:45-9:20
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 2:10-3:25-5:05-6:30-8:35-9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 11:30-1:15-1:35-3:20-3:45-5:30-7:40-10:00
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:00-4:35-7:30-10:05
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:15-10:45
The Sitter (R) 1:45-4:00-6:15-8:30-10:35
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 1:10-2:40-4:15-6:15-8:10-7:10-8:05-8:55-9:55-10:55
The Muppets (PG) 12:25-3:05-6:45-8:20-10:50

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:00-6:50
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 6:10
The Muppets (PG) Digital Presentation: (I) 2:10-4:40-7:10
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 4:00-6:45
Hugo (PG) Digital Presentation: 3:20
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 4:30
Tower Heist (PG-13) (I) 2:20-7:15
The Ides of March (R) (I) 4:50
J. Edgar (R) 3:40-6:55
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) (I) 2:40-5:25-8:00
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 2:05-4:45-7:20

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Digital Presentation: (I) 12:15-3:00-5:45-8:30-11:15
Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 1:15-6:25-11:35
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:05-2:15-5:30-8:45-11:55
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:15-1:40-4:10-6:40-9:10-11:30
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:25-10:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:25-1:15-4:05-7:00-9:55

The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: 10:55-12:05-1:25-2:30-3:40-4:45-6:00-7:05-8:20-9:30-10:30-11:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:10-2:00-5:00-8:00
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: (I) 3:45-6:55-10:05
The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: (I) 10:15-12:55
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 11:00-1:55-4:50-7:45-10:40
The Descendants (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 10:20-1:10-4:00-6:50-9:40
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video: (I) 11:35-3:10-6:45-10:20
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 10:40-3:50-9:00
Young Adult (R) (I) 12:10-2:40-5:05-7:35-10:00
J. Edgar (R) 10:15AM
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Special 12:01AM: (I) 12:01AM
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 1:05-4:40-8:15-11:45
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 1:00-4:15-7:30-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 10:10-12:25-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 10:45-1:35-4:25-7:20-10:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 12:10-1:20-3:15-4:20-6:15-7:15-9:15-10:15
The Muppets (PG) 10:20-11:40-1:10-2:25-3:55-5:10-6:35-7:50-9:20-10:30-12:00

Alexandria Old Town Theater
815 1/2 King St http://tickets.oldtowntheater.com/

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 2:30-5:00-7:30
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) (I) 3:20-5:30-7:50

Regal Ballston Common 12
671 N. Glebe Road www.regalcinemas.com

Young Adult (R) 12:40-3:05-5:30-8:10-10:35
The Descendants (R) 12:20-2:00-4:50-7:35-10:25
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 11:00-1:00-2:30-3:30-4:30-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:30-10:30
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 12:50-1:20-3:50-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 11:30-12:30-1:50-2:50-4:00-5:00-6:30-7:30-8:50-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:55-6:20
The Sitter (R) 4:05-9:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 1:10-1:40-4:10-4:40-7:10-7:40-10:10-10:40

Regal Kingstowne 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center

Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 3:05-6:15-9:10
New Year's Eve (PG-13) CC-Open Caption: 12:45-6:35
Young Adult (R) 12:25-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:05
The Descendants (R) 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) (I) 12:00-1:45-3:30-5:05-7:00-8:30-10:20
Hugo (PG) 12:05
Arthur Christmas (PG) 12:35-3:10-5:30
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) 12:10-1:15-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:25
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 12:15-3:20-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 12:20-1:30-2:30-3:40-4:50-6:00-7:10-8:10-9:20-10:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:30-3:25-6:20-9:05
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 3:35-9:25
The Muppets (PG) 1:05-3:50-6:45-9:40
The Sitter (R) 8:05-10:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 1:00-1:50-3:55-4:40-6:50-7:40-9:45-10:35

Regal Potomac Yard 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway www.regalcinemas.com

Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 12:15-6:15-9:05
The Sitter (R) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 3:25-5:35-10:15
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (I) 11:15-12:50-1:25-2:10-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:50-7:30-8:10-9:50-10:35
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (I) 11:25-12:20-1:00-1:40-2:40-3:20-4:10-5:00-5:30-6:35-7:20-8:00-9:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 12:35-3:35-6:20-9:15
The Sitter (R) 1:10-1:15-6:00
The Muppets (PG) 11:10-1:30-3:55-6:25-9:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (I) 11:20-12:40-2:20-4:00-5:20-7:05-7:45-8:25-10:05-10:45

Weekend Pass | dining

An Immersive Meal

Intensely flavorful and numbingly spicy, Sichuan hot pot is what you make it

Cuisine

Sichuan province might be to the rest of China as Paris is to France. It's the home of some of China's most discerning gastronomic tastemakers and taste buds. It's a place where food trends flourish and people spend hours lingering over meals, whether classic or cutting-edge.

"To people in Sichuan, food is a religion," says Lilly Qin, whose parents own Sichuan Village restaurant in Chantilly, Va. "They worship their food."

Of all Sichuan's revered recipes, one of its most distinctive is the hot pot, a meal that diners essentially cook on the table in front of them, dunking raw meats and vegetables into "hot pots" of boiling broth perched above a flame or on an electric burner. The concept dates back hundreds of years — some sources say it originated in China as early as the 10th century — and has parallels with other ethnic cuisines, including Swiss fondue.

There's something special about Sichuan hot pot, and not just because many believe Sichuan's "is the original hot pot," as Qin says. Its "ma la" (numbingly spicy) broth features Sichuan peppercorns, which deliver a slow-burning, mildly anesthetic sensation — and can prompt some serious sweating. (A

Hot Pot Spots

Sichuan Village
14005 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy,
Chantilly, Va.; 703-631-5888,
Sichuanvillage.com.

Mala Tang
3434 Washington Blvd., Arlington;
703-243-2381, Mala-tang.com.
(Virginia Square-GMU)

Uncle Liu's Hot Pot
2972 Gallows Road, Falls Church; 703-
560-6868. (Dunn Loring-Merrifield)

Great Wall Szechuan House
1527 14th St. NW; 202-797-8888.
(U St.-Cardozo)

"mild" version — made with spring onion, garlic and ginger — is peppercorn-free. Many restaurants offer both options in a single partitioned pot.)

The Experience

Traditional hot pot meals — which are available at Sichuan Village, Uncle Liu's Hot Pot in Falls Church, Va., and the Great Wall Szechuan House in D.C. (which serves hot pot only to groups of six or more with advance reservations) — center on one large vessel for multiple diners.

Arlington's Mala Tang, however, breaks the mold with individual-size saucepans heated over small burners. "It's more fun and a little more American this way," says manager Ryan Chen, translating for chef Liu Chaosheng (who also owns Uncle Liu's Hot Pot and Chinese restaurants Hong Kong Palace in Falls Church and



A diner dips noodles into a pot of spicy "ma la" broth" at Mala Tang in Arlington. For hot pot meals, diners order raw ingredients a la carte and cook them at the table.

China Jade in Rockville). Chaosheng recommends each diner order one meat and one veggie — good advice even for individuals sharing larger pots, since the raw ingredients are served in large portions. (Plus, the broth doubles as an intensely flavorful soup.)

Meats like beef, chicken and lamb — all of which are ordered a la carte — arrive raw and thinly sliced. Seafood, such as squid and dumpling-like fish balls, also cook well and quickly in hot pots. Veggie possibilities are seemingly endless. Reliable standbys include mushroom and bok choy.

"Everybody prepares it together; everybody eats it together."

— **XIAORONG LU**, CO-OWNER OF SICHUAN VILLAGE RESTAURANT IN CHANTILLY, VA., ON SICHUAN HOT POT CUISINE.

It's up to diners to monitor cooking time, which varies from about 30 seconds to five minutes, depending on the items' size and diners' preferences. (If you're unsure about what you're doing, ask a waiter to help you monitor your food.) After cooking, foods get dipped in condiments such as garlicky sesame oil, barbecue sauce and fiery dried pepper before they're finally ready to eat. It's another DIY element of a fully customizable menu.

With so many choices — and so much of the preparation being done by diners themselves — Sichuan hot pot can be intimidating to the uninitiated. But you can't go wrong with a group effort, says Xiaorong Lu, Sichuan Village's co-owner: "Everybody prepares it together; everybody eats it together."

KATIE ABERBACH (EXPRESS)

New to hot pot? Here are a few expert tips.

Cook the proteins before the veggies and starches, because non-proteins (particularly items such as broccoli, potatoes and noodles) tend to soak up the ma la broth's flavor and can become extremely spicy, recommends Liu Chaosheng, chef at Mala Tang.



When your hot pot is half-empty, your meal is not half-over. Just request a refill. "Most people don't know to ask for more broth," says Sichuan Village's Lilly Qin, "but it helps to dilute the flavor."

Share! The more people at your table, the wider the variety of ingredients you can order. Besides, "the whole point of hot pot is not to eat it alone," Qin says. K.A.

dining | Weekend Pass



Executive chef Benjamin Lambert prepares rainbow trout at Wit & Wisdom, Michael Mina's tavern in Baltimore's Four Seasons Hotel.

Marquee Charm

There's a lot to like about Michael Mina's Wit & Wisdom tavern

First Bite

A new-car scent and a fetching view of the Baltimore waterfront greet me as I step into the Four Seasons Hotel's Wit & Wisdom, a Tavern by Michael Mina. The marquee chef, in town for the mid-November launch of the American restaurant, is demonstrating his drawing power with a crowded dining room and frequent requests from diners to have their pictures taken with the San Francisco brand.

Fifteen minutes later, I'm a prisoner of my waiter, who goes over Mina's menu in excruciating detail, as if "items to share" and "slow-cooked & braised" needed explanation. TMI, sir, TMI! The cocktails can't come soon enough, and when they do, I'm pleased to make the acquaintance of the spirited Jalisco Sour.

The menu is relatively down-to-earth. There are chilled shellfish and bison tartare for openers and butter-basted chicken and gar-



Singed cauliflower and capers are flavorful sidekicks for crispy trout.

lic-rubbed lamb shoulder to move on to, the choices interspersed with dishes that underscore the region: "coddie" fritters, crab cakes and rockfish.

Which is not to say there are no flights of fancy. Tapped to stoke the oak and mesquite fire, Benjamin Lambert, the former chef at Restaurant Nora in Washington, gussies up roasted peanut soup with a swab of bruleed marshmallow and chicken cracklings on the rim of the bowl. Laced with sherry and finished with cream, the appetizer goes down like liquid peanut butter. A salad of ricotta, black walnuts and eggplant is so intensely smoky,

it tastes as if the vegetable passed through a campfire on its way to the table. More straightforward is skin-on trout teetering over singed cauliflower and capers, plus a puree of the vegetable. Side dishes run from a creamy mushroom gratin to fluffy hush puppies drizzled with a syrup of honey and hot sauce.

Another former Washingtonian brings dinner to a sweet conclusion. Pastry chef Chris Ford, formerly of Rogue 24, demonstrates his penchant for deconstructed desserts with a red velvet cake tinted with beets and served as ragged pieces of cake lined up in a row. Ford's shout-out to his new roost, coined the Baltimore Bar, layers bittersweet chocolate brownie, peanut butter ganache and chocolate mousse beneath a robe of Valrhona chocolate embedded with caramelized peanuts and pretzel pieces.

Crunchy, sweet, soft, salty: There's a lot going on in each bite. Like Wit & Wisdom, it's both accessible and elegant. **TOM SIETSEMA** (THE WASHINGTON POST)

• 200 International Drive, Baltimore; 410-223-1456, Witandwisdomtavern.com.

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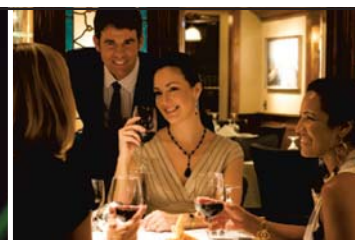
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this exhibit, which will include a life-size mannequin of a horse in full beaded regalia, rifles and a Sioux tepee; "Conversations With the Earth: Indigenous Voices on Climate Change," an indigenous science exhibition that uses photographs, video and audio captured by tribal communities from the Arctic to Brazil, through Jan. 2. "IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas," an exhibit that looks at the lives of people with African-American and Native American heritages, through Feb. 2. Fourth Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, Nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: "Trove: The Collection In Depth," more than 100 pieces show the breadth of the collection the museum has assembled over a quarter century, through Jan. 15. "Visions of the Orient: Western Women Artists in Asia 1900-1940," prints and paintings by Western female artists exploring Asian cultures in the early 20th century, through Jan. 15. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, Nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Glimpse of the Past: A Neighborhood Evolves," a photographic exploration of the neighborhood surrounding the Patent Office Building, one of the oldest federal buildings in Washington, through Jan. 8. "Mementos: Painted and Photographic Miniatures, 1750-1920," an exhibit of portrait miniatures that were often made as love tokens or keepsakes, through May 13. "One Life: Ronald Reagan," an exhibition celebrating the 40th president's 100th birthday, through May 28. "Portraiture Now: Asian American Portraits of Encounter," portraits by seven Asian American artists that capture the complexities of being Asian in America, through Oct. 14. "Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories," the life of Gertrude Stein is chronicled by more than 100 works and 50 artifacts reflecting Stein's career, through Jan. 22. "The Black List," photographs by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders explore the careers and lives of pre-eminent African-Americans, through April 22. "The Death of Ellsworth," the first of four yearly alcove exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery recounts the death of the first Union officer killed in the Civil War, through May 18. John F. Kennedy portraits, several portraits of John F. Kennedy are on display to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his inauguration. Included are four photo-

Lost and Found



ARTHUR BROOKER

FADING FACES: "Lost Worlds: Ruins of the Americas" is both a fancy coffee-table book and a photography exhibition, now at the Art Museum of the Americas. Arthur Brooker has shot ruins all over the continent; the above is from Honduras.

graphs and one painting, through Jan. 8. Eighth and F streets NW; 202-633-1000, Npg.si.edu.

Newseum: "Blood and Ink: Front Pages From the Civil War," more than 30 historic newspaper front pages documenting the most famous events of the Civil War, "G-Men and Journalists: Top News Stories of the FBI's First Century," coverage of the FBI's most famous investigations, through Dec. 31. "Inside Tim Russert's Office: If It's Sunday, It's 'Meet the Press,'" the former "Meet the Press" host's office is partially reassembled to reflect how it appeared during his 17 years as the show's moderator, through Dec. 31. "Photo Finish: The Sports Photography of Neil Leifer," moments captured by sports photographer Neil Leifer, including Muhammad Ali's victory over Sonny Liston, will be on display, through March 18. 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386, Newseum.org.

Phillips Collection: "90 Years of New: The Klee Room," the museum's Klee Room will be brought back to its state in 1948, with 13 works by Paul Klee adorning the walls, through Dec. 31. "Degas's Dancers at the Barre: Point and Counterpoint," paintings of dancers by Edgar Degas show his fascination with ballet, through Jan. 8. "Eye to Eye: Joseph Marioni at the Phillips," a collection of monochrome paintings selected by the artists will be on display, through Jan. 29. "Will Ryman's 'The Roses,'" fiberglass and stainless steel statues of rose blooms are placed on the museum's lawn. The structures transform in the changing light of the colder seasons, through Jan. 5. 1600 21st St. NW; 202-

387-2151, Phillipscollection.org.

Renwick Gallery: "Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts From the White House," a collection of pieces, including furniture, ceramics, glass and textiles, shows the history of the White House's decor, through May 6. 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu.

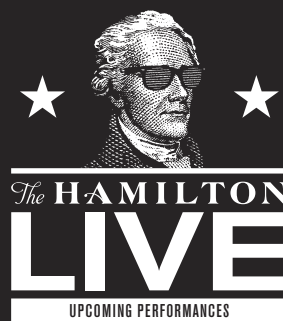
Smithsonian American Art

Museum: "Inventing a Better Mouse-trap: Patent Models From the Rothschild Collection," models of mouse-traps show the different patents inventors submitted during the 19th century, "Made in Chicago: The Koffler Collection," twenty-six paintings, sculptures and works on paper from 1960 to 1980 by Chicago artists, including Roger Brown, Leon Golub, Theodore Halkin and Vera Klement, through Jan. 2. "Multiplicity," contemporary artists show how repeated images are important to the process of printmaking, through March 11. "The Great Hall of American Wonders," this collection of more than 160 objects, including paintings and drawings by John James Audubon and Winslow Homer — as well as botanical illustrations, patent models and engineering diagrams — captures America at its most aspirational and imaginative, through Jan. 8. "Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image," a permanent collection documenting contemporary art's use of video. On display are nine works spanning 50 years, including Cory Arcangel's Nintendo-inspired "Video Painting," Jim Campbell's "Grand Central Station #2" display, made from 1,728 LED lights, and Kota Ezawa's 3-D digital animation, "LYAM 3D," Eighth and F streets NW; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu.

Susan Calloway Fine Arts: "Sweet Tides," works by Alison Hall Cooley focus on the memory of spaces, through Dec. 31. 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-4601, Callowayart.com.

Textile Museum: "Second Lives: The Age-Old Art of Recycling Textiles," examples of how various cultures reuse fabric, including a vest made from a blanket and a large patchwork of small scraps of silk ikat, through Jan. 8. "Weaving Abstraction: Kuba Textiles and the Woven Art of Central Africa," a collection of 50 19th- and 20th-century objects, including ceremonial skirts, tribute clothes, headdresses and

Continued on page E19



FRIDAY, DEC 23

THE JUNKYARD SAINTS

MONDAY, DEC 26

THE DAVID KITCHEN BAND

TUESDAY, DEC 27

WIL GRAVATT BAND

WEDNESDAY, DEC 28

CHRISTYLEZ BACON

THURSDAY, DEC 29

SOUL CRACKERS

W/ TOMMY LEPSON

FRIDAY, DEC 30

JUSTIN TRAWICK GROUP

SATURDAY, DEC 31

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W/ CAITLIN SCHNEIDERMAN

SATURDAY, JAN 14

CHAISE LOUNGE

TUESDAY, JAN 17

THE GRANDSONS

THURSDAY, JAN 19

MAVIS STAPLES

W/ ERIC SCOTT

SUNDAY, JAN 22

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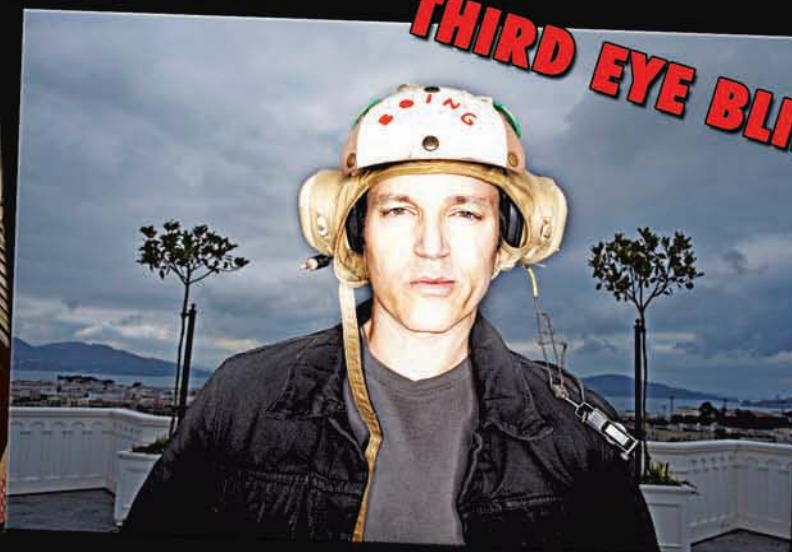
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Continued from page E17

basketry, through Feb. 12. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, Textilemuseum.org.

The Old Print Gallery: "New Prints by Jake Muirhead," more than 20 etchings, aquatints and drypoints by the artist, through Jan. 23. 1220 31st St. NW; 202-965-1818, Oldprintgallery.com.

Torpedo Factory Art Center/The Art League: "Transitions," using reclaimed wood from spontaneous finds, father-and-son duo Guy and Marco Rando create whimsical sculptures evoking the forms of nature, through Jan. 2. The Art League, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-683-1780, Theartleague.org.

LAST CHANCE Touchstone: "Eclipsed By the Cloud: the Detritus of Obsolescent Technology," totems by Rima Schul-kind use technologically outdated items to show our ingenuity and heedlessness, through Sat. "Small Treasures," an annual holiday of small works by member artists, through Sat. 901 New York Ave. NW; 202-347-2787, Touchstonegallery.com.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "Season's Greenings," a celebration of how people use plants in holiday traditions, through Jan. 2. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, Usbg.gov.

Woodrow Wilson House: "Woodrow Wilson, President Electric: Harnessing the Power of Innovation in the Progressive Era," examples of technology from the Progressive Era used by Wilson and the first family, including a telephone, silent film footage, a Victrola player, a 1921 Milburn Electric car and more, through Oct. 31, 2012. 2340 S St. NW; 202-387-4062, Woodrowwilsonhouse.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Shining Stars," an exhibit of sculpture and mixed-media works by Julie Girardini, Joan Konkel, David Hubbard, Barton Rubenstein and Paul Martin Wolff, through Jan. 7. 1111 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-783-2963.

stage

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas: A mouse whose house was skipped by Santa last Christmas goes on an adventure with an elf and a girl, through Jan. 2, \$18. Glen Echo Park, Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo,

Md.; 301-634-2270, Adventuretheatre.org.

A Christmas Carol: through Dec. 31, \$46-\$75. Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW; 202-347-4833, Fordstheatre.org.

A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas: Paul Morella in a one-man show, using only the words from Charles Dickens' novella. For ages 10 and older, through Jan. 1, \$26. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, Olneytheatre.org.

ANN: An Affectionate Portrait of Ann Richards: Ann Richards served as the 45th governor of Texas, the second female to hold that office. But she was more than a politician: She was a character, someone as comfortable giving a policy speech as cracking one-liners. Holland Taylor inhabits the late Richards' colorful persona in a one-woman biographical play, beginning Saturday at 7:30 p.m., through Jan. 15, \$54-\$95. Kennedy Center, Eisenhower Theater, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600. 800-444-1324, Kennedy-center.org.

An Irish Carol: Keegan Theatre sets Dickens' classic in a pub, through Dec. 31, \$35, \$30 students and seniors. Keegan Theatre at Church Street, Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St. NW; 703-892-0202, Keegantheatre.com.

Billy Elliot the Musical: After a failed attempt at boxing, a boy follows his dream of becoming a dancer, through Jan. 15, \$25-\$150. Kennedy Center, Opera House, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600. 800-444-1324, Kennedy-center.org.

Black Nativity: Langston Hughes' retelling of the Christmas story from an African-American perspective with gospel music, griot-style storytelling and dance, through Dec. 31, \$20-\$35, \$20 students and seniors, \$10 ages 17 and younger. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 202-544-0703, Hstreetplayhouse.com.

Bust: Comedic actress Lauren Weedman stars in a show she wrote about her career and her volunteer work at a woman's jail, through Dec. 31, \$35-\$60. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, Studiotheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Cannibal the Musical!: Presented by the Landless Theatre Company, through Fri., \$25. D.C. Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW; 202-462-7833, Dcartscenter.org.

Dr. Dolittle: A soldier during World War

I writes letters to his son describing a doctor who can talk to animals and makes peace among warring animals in Africa, through Jan. 8, \$10-\$22. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, Imaginationstage.org.

Equivocation: William Shakespeare and his troupe attempt to find a balance between art and politics in 1605 London, through Jan. 1, \$55-\$100. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org.

Hairspray: A teen who loves to dance becomes a local celebrity in Baltimore, through Jan. 29, \$62-\$86. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, Signature-theatre.org.

Jersey Boys: The musical tells the story of the rise of the Four Seasons, through Jan. 7, \$36.50-\$276.50. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-628-6161, Nationaltheatre.org.

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical: A tot experiences her first words, loss and love all in a trip to the laundromat. The musical, which had its world premiere at the Kennedy Center in May 2010, was adapted by Emmy-winner Mo Willems with music by Grammy-winner Michael Silversher, through Jan. 8, \$15, \$5 children. Kennedy Center, Family Theater, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600. 800-444-1324, Kennedy-center.org.

Much Ado About Nothing: Shakespeare's romantic comedy about a battle of wits is staged, through Jan. 7, \$25-\$105. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122, Shakespearetheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Olney Ballet Theatre: "The Nutcracker" is performed, through Sat., \$18-\$41. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, Olneytheatre.org.

Parfumerie: The Miklos Laszlo story that inspired the plot of the film "You've Got Mail"; the play is about two Budapest shop clerks who bicker at work but don't know that they have been exchanging anonymous love letters through the mail, through Jan. 8, \$25. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean, Va.; 703-854-1856, 1ststagepringhill.org.

Pride and Prejudice: The parents of five daughters attempt to find them husbands, through Dec. 31, \$25-\$60. Round House Theatre, 4545 East West Hwy., Bethesda; 240-644-1100, Roundhousetheatre.org.

Romeo and Juliet: The Shakespearean tale of star-crossed lovers is told without words, using props, mime and dance. Part of "Speak No More: The Silent Shakespeare Festival," through Dec. 30, \$35-\$55, \$50-\$30 seniors, \$10-\$25 students. Syntetic Theater at Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington; 800-494-8497.

LAST CHANCE Seasons of Light: Ideal for ages 5 to 10. A multicultural celebration of global winter holidays, through Fri., \$8, \$6 children, \$3 age 1 and younger. Discovery Theater at S. Dilon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-8700, 202-633-3030, Discoverytheater.org.

LAST CHANCE Septime Webre's The Nutcracker: Septime Webre directs a D.C.-themed version of the classic, through Sat. Warner Theatre, 13th and E streets NW; 202-783-4000.

Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies: Woolly artists collaborate with Chicago's the Second City to present a comedic anti-holiday show, through Jan. 8, \$35-\$67.50. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; 202-393-3939, Woollymammoth.net.

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues: Santa's reindeer dish the dirt on St. Nick in this dark Christmas comedy, through Dec. 30, \$24, \$20 students and seniors. Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 W. Patrick St., Frederick, Md.; 301-694-4744, Marylandensemble.org.

LAST CHANCE The Kinsey Sicks in Oy Vey in a Manger: The San Francisco-based drag quartet performs its irreverent show, opens Sat. through Mon., \$60-\$65. Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; 800-494-8497, Theaterj.org.

LAST CHANCE The Rough-Faced Girl: a Native American story about a girl who is cast aside by her family and tribe, performed by Syntetic Theater, through Wed., \$15; in advance, \$12. Syntetic Family Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-824-8061, 800-494-8497, Syntetictheater.org.

The Sound of Music: A musical about a governess, seven mischievous children and their stern father, through Jan. 8, \$26-\$54. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd., Olney; 301-924-3400, Olneytheatre.org.

You, Nero: A playwright attempts to restore order in Rome through a farce, through Jan. 1, \$55-\$85. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; 202-488-3300, Arenastage.org.

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Family Business

The Kardashians deny that their products are made in sweatshops **23**

Broadcast Muse



7-Minute Solution

Dear readers: I must confess I can't pick 2011's best new shows because I haven't had time to watch 'em all. Then I had a brainstorm: "Back to school night" methodology. Parents get roughly seven minutes to size up a teacher, which is more than enough. Here's my take on four acclaimed



rookie series, based on seven-minute samples: **American Horror Story** (FX, 10 p.m. Wed.). Teen sets stepdad on fire! Hubbie tells wife her twins had two dads — and one was the man in a rubber suit

who raped her!! Teen and wife may be ghosts!!! Horrifyingly addictive!!!

Happy Endings (ABC, 9:30 p.m. Wed.). A sitcom about bantering 20-somethings. Wife says "va cay cay." Husband says, "Don't say va cay cay, mmm kay kay." Refreshingly zany, like Oscar Wilde for goofy hipsters.

Homeland (Showtime, 10 p.m. Sun.). Claire Danes, above: She's crazy — and the best terrorist catcher in the CIA. Masterfully tense, with so many twists you can't possibly keep up!

Revenge (ABC, 10 p.m. Wed.): Daughter seeks to avenge framed dad. Full of hilariously bad dialogue, e.g.: "How can you stand the touch of your enemy's son?" and "Who doesn't like pancakes?" Guiltiest guilty pleasure of the year!



Read Marc's previous columns at: expressnightout.com/muse



Tintin, right, and Captain Haddock, left, travel through Europe, the high seas and North Africa in "The Adventures of Tintin."

Abandon Ship!

Steven Spielberg's adaptation of 'Tintin' is dead in the water

Film Review

Reportedly, the story goes that the Belgian cartoon artist Herge was thrilled at the prospect of having his most famous creation, Tintin, brought to life by Steven Spielberg. Tintin, of course, is the young red-haired journalist who has charmed generations of readers with his mystery-solving exploits since Herge introduced him in 1929, especially

in Europe, where millions of kids have avidly followed Tintin and his terrier, Snowy, in newspapers and comic books.

Sadly, Herge isn't around to see "The Adventures of Tintin," Spielberg's crisp, richly rendered animated adaptation, which could be counted as both a success and a failure. Spielberg has brought Tintin to the big screen, but not quite to life.

There's no doubt that "The Adventures of Tintin" looks splendid, although Spielberg has jettisoned the bold, simple lines and flattened dimensions that were Herge's signature. From the film's

The Adventures Of Tintin (PG)

Director: Steven Spielberg
Stars: Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis
In a Nutshell: Tintin and Captain Haddock set off on a treasure hunt for a sunken ship commanded by Haddock's ancestor. But someone else is in search of the ship, too.

opening sequence, when Tintin (voiced by Jamie Bell) and Snowy find a rare model ship in a crowded outdoor flea market, every frame is jam-packed with gleaming surface-

Criticisms

A Lack of Heart

Between all the flashbacks, close calls, urgent music and swooping cameras, there's a lot going on in "Tintin," but precious little is really at stake. And the film's motion-capture technology, while impressive, is almost too silkily seamless, making all the hectic action seem oddly cold and distant. It takes more than flawless production values, it turns out, to create a genuinely compelling emotional experience. **A.H.**

es and beguiling reflections.

No sooner does Tintin barter successfully for the ship than two men try to steal it, those mysterious encounters eventually sending Tintin and Snowy on an adventure that will take them from Europe to the high seas and North Africa. The story really gets rollicking when Tintin meets Captain Haddock (Andy Serkis), a dipsomaniacal seafarer who joins Tintin's quest to find out why so many people are interested in his little model boat.

Spielberg harkens back to his "Indiana Jones" days throughout much of "The Adventures of Tintin," which possesses the boisterous, busy pacing of a movie desperately trying to distract viewers from the story's endless convolutions, which offer diminishing returns as they pile up.

On the surface, "The Adventures of Tintin" is unimpeachable, but the surface is where it stays. That's why, when all the chases, fights, stunts and stand-offs are over, it's ultimately no great snakes.

ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

\$861K

The amount that Orson Welles' Academy Award sold for at auction Tuesday. The 1942 Oscar, which he won for "Citizen Kane's" screenplay, was thought to be lost for decades until it surfaced in 1994. A spokesman said bidders from around the world, including David Copperfield, vied for the award. (AP)

lookout TV tonight

Best Bets

FOX
8:00


The X Factor Ratings have been strong enough during the first season of Simon Cowell's singing competition to establish the show as a strong companion to "American Idol." Tonight, in the season finale, viewers will find out who takes home the \$5 million recording contract.

HGTV
8:00

Hollywood at Home Celebrities from a variety of entertainment venues open their homes in this new special, starting with actress Andie McDowell, whose Tudor-Country French-style home near Asheville, N.C., combines cozy traditional pieces with contemporary touches.

TCM
8:00

The Thin Man William Powell and Myrna Loy, right, perfected the concept of married, often-bickering sleuths in this classic 1934 comedy-mystery movie. The stars play Nick and Nora Charles, a high-living couple who investigate an inventor's supposed involvement in a murder.


NBC
10:00


Prime Suspect A murder during a game of mah-jongg brings Jane (Maria Bello, left) and Evrard to Chinatown, but they can't seem to catch a break in their investigation as a high-powered attorney seems to be able to make any key witnesses disappear.

LIFE
10:00

Project Accessory The remaining designers showcase their designs in front of New York's fashion elite before the judges announce who has won the prize of \$100,000 from eBay Fashion to start their own line, and a spread in InStyle. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Taking It to the 'Street'

A 'Funny or Die' comic probes New Yorkers' pop-culture expertise

Game Shows

FUSE
11:00

The music-based Fuse network is branching out into comedy with a game show filmed on New York City sidewalks. Think "Cash Cab" without the cab, and with some New York attitude.

"Funny or Die's Billy on the Street" features comedian Billy Eichner, who has made a popular series of videos with sassy street encounters. (This is the third television production launched by the comedy website Funny or Die.)

Eichner stalks the sidewalks to find people willing to answer music- and celebrity-based questions for money. Not a lot of money, mind you. One woman was insulted when Eichner counted out single dollar bills as part of her winnings.

The questions aren't typical, either. Eichner had a particularly ribald way of probing how well



Comedian Billy Eichner, right, accosts New Yorkers with inane trivia in his new show.

"I'm bringing this urgency to what is really a ridiculous topic."

contestants kept up on John Mayer's love life, for example.

The idea for him is to give celebrity gossip the same weight as issues of war and peace, and see how people react. "I'm bringing this urgency to what is really

a ridiculous topic," he says.

Eichner calls the show "crazy and raw" because he doesn't prepare much beyond taking a camera, microphone and stack of questions with him on the street.

Luckily for him, most of the people he encounters are good sports. "It's fascinating to me how even jaded New Yorkers who you think wouldn't want to be on television are really very excited to be on television," he says.

DAVID BAUDER (AP)

Women: Is Your Drinking Causing Problems? Do You Drink Alcohol to Help Ease Your Anxiety?

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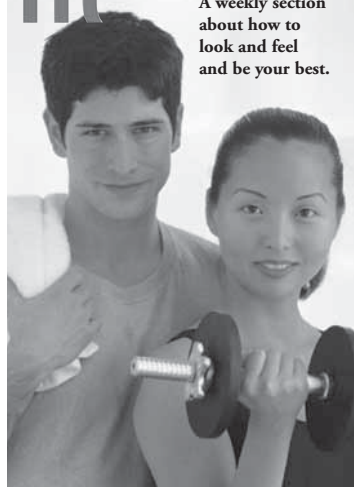
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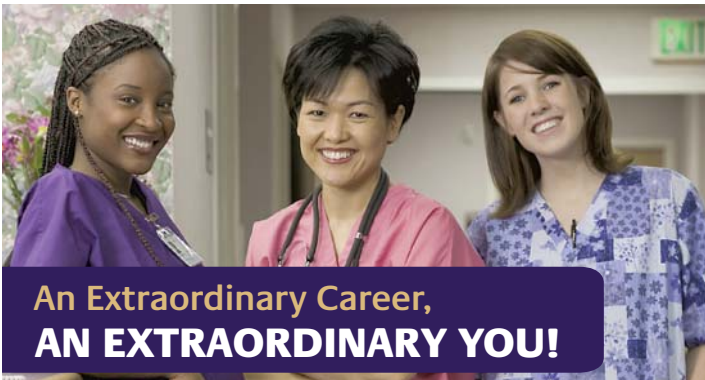
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703-920-8665 www.ffgw.org

ADOPT - CATS & KITTENS
Tysons Corner Petsmart Fri, 6:30-8:30
7 Corners, Va Petsmart Sat, 12-3pm
Tysons Corner, Petsmart Sun, 1-4pm
Liesburg, Va Petsmart Sun, 1-4pm
Reston, Va Petsmart Sun, 1-4pm
Make CFCNCA contributions to LDCRF using #97890. For more info. & photos available: www.lostdogandcatrescue.org (703) 295-DOGS

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7 Corners, Va Petsmart Sat, 12-3pm
Fair Lakes, Va Petsmart Sat, 1-4pm
Rockville, Md Petco Sat, 1-4pm
Rockville, Md Bark Sat, 1-4pm
Sterling, Va Petsmart Sun, 12-3pm
Alexandria, Va Petsmart Sun, 1-4pm
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Online



“If we were Rovio, we’d buy this game, give it the ol’ ‘Angry Birds’ polish, and get those downloads over a billion.”

— **DIGITALTRENDS.COM** is amused by the concept of “Misunderstood Pigs,” an iPhone game produced by a single developer that’s essentially the “inverse of ‘Angry Birds’” — in which players protect pigs from attacking birds.



MAURICIO LIMA/FUCKR

“The question is, do we really want the paranoid nightmare of our airspace being polluted by police and personal drones with all of us watching our watchers?”

— **GUARDIAN.CO.UK** is fascinated by an Occupy Wall Street protester who built his own surveillance drone, but is a bit worried about the ramifications.

“It’s interesting to note the theme of the array of sites American Bridge chose to redirect to. They’re not about Gingrich’s erratic behavior as speaker of the House more than a decade ago, or his infidelities and divorces, or, with the exception of the Pelosi commercial, his policy stances. Rather, the sites point to a collection of references to Gingrich’s self-interested ventures.”

— **MOLLY BALL AT THE ATLANTIC.COM** dissects the decision by liberal group American Bridge to buy NewtGingrich.com and redirect it to a number of unflattering sites and articles.



“Let me tell you — it looks GREAT! After delivering a stunning trilogy for ‘The Lord of the Rings,’ it looks like Jackson is about to hit another one right out of the park.”

— **FORBES.COM** contributor Mark Hughes watched the new trailer for “The Hobbit” and thinks director Peter Jackson has another hit on his hands.

“32 more chapters should only serve to further convolute things, which will, of course, be awesome.”

— **AVCLUB.COM/CHICAGO** cheers the news that R. Kelly has written numerous chapters for his “Trapped in the Closet” music video saga, but notes the R&B singer needs funding to help make the episodes a reality.

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Puzzles

Crossword

A WINTER'S TALE

ACROSS

- 1 African tree snake
6 Borscht ingredient
10 Banshee's cry
14 Wedding cake figure
15 Casa cookware
16 Sgt. Snorkel's four-legged friend
17 Wintry Disney movie?
20 Wickerwork willow
21 The lesser of two ____
22 Brown or white weasel
24 On the apex
27 Vehicle that stops at school
30 Fictional detective
31 Spade
31 One of the Bobbseys
33 Modern music genre
35 Informed about
37 Flowering time
39 Beginnings
41 Wintry play by Eugene O'Neill?
44 Beef ____ bleu
45 West of "My Little Chickadee"
46 Opera diva's solo
47 Agricultural tool
48 Additive that sponsors NASCAR racers
50 Unwanted pantry guest
52 Archer's bow wood
53 Gloom's partner
55 Chosen by chance
58 Defame, in a way
60 Practice piece
63 Wintry tale by Stella Gibbons?
68 Cheese for crackers
69 Clydesdale controller
70 Bunsen burner kin
71 Tea-leaves reader
72 Juice-drink endings, sometimes
73 Free-for-alls, in prison

DOWN

- 1 Some British sports cars
2 It flows through Florence
3 Cattle calls
4 "Modern Love" singer
5 Brownish-yellow shades
6 Neighbor of Arg.
7 Degeneres of TV
8 Ace value, sometimes
9 Bus alternative
10 Deserving of the booby prize
11 Had the special
12 It is in most dialogue?
13 ____ Gatos, Calif.
18 Military weaponry
19 Will in the future
23 Islamic prayer leader
25 Solar system model
26 York Peppermint ____
27 Ruin clumsily
28 Reveal the executioner
29 Hi-fi
32 One rising in rank, e.g.
34 "Fiddlesticks!"
36 Suffix with "human"

- or "fact"
38 Often-candied vegetable
40 Physicians' org.
42 Type of dust or ray
43 Round bread of India
49 Doc-to-be's major
51 Walk like a two-year-old
54 What you'll be on your next birthday
56 1966 Michael Caine movie remade in 2004
57 Muslim scholar
59 Tora ____ (region of Afghanistan)
61 "Book 'em, ____" ("Hawaii Five-O" phrase)
62 It precedes "demonstrandum"
63 Things used in semi

- circles?
64 Rich rock
65 Fail a polygraph test
66 Put ____ (pranks)
67 SASE enclosures (abbr.)

Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | P | E | L | T | 6 | A | M | A | S | 9 | 10 | L | A | D | E |
| 2 | O | D | O | R | 7 | M | A | G | I | C | 11 | A | M | E | N |
| 3 | U | G | L | I | 8 | A | W | A | S | H | 12 | S | O | F | T |
| 4 | R | E | A | P | 9 | T | R | I | K | E | 13 | T | H | R | E |
| 5 | J | O | E | N | 10 | I | M | H | E | R | 14 | R | | | |
| 6 | O | P | U | S | 11 | N | A | R | C | | | | | | |
| 7 | P | O | S | I | T | R | O | N | 12 | U | R | A | L | S | |
| 8 | E | L | A | N | 13 | S | L | A | M | S | 14 | E | V | I | L |
| 9 | D | A | R | T | 15 | G | O | O | D | W | I | F | E | | |
| 10 | S | A | G | O | 16 | P | R | O | D | D | E | D | | | |
| 11 | C | P | A | | 17 | L | A | P | P | E | E | R | | | |
| 12 | L | A | D | Y | 18 | O | F | P | A | I | N | 19 | I | D | O |
| 13 | A | R | I | A | 20 | F | O | R | T | E | 21 | V | I | V | A |
| 14 | S | K | E | W | 22 | E | S | S | E | S | 23 | E | V | E | N |
| 15 | H | A | U | L | 24 | S | E | E | M | S | 25 | R | A | N | D |

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Today in History

2001 Richard C. Reid, tries to ignite explosives in his shoes on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, but people on the flight subdue him.

2006 Rape charges are dropped against three Duke University lacrosse players.

2010 President Obama signs a law allowing gays to serve openly in the U.S. military.

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People



INCOHERENT

Sandra's Handlers Remember the Reason They've Kept Her Quiet

Sandra Bullock said on "The Tonight Show" that she is willing to break the law to obtain her favorite sausages. "We have to manage to smuggle German sausages into the country," she said. "They're these little sausages that you just have them shipped in and you fry them up with some sauerkraut and potato salad." (EXPRESS)

SEE RIGHT

Unlike Brooke Mueller, He Would Be Glad for TMZ to Live-Stream His Court Date



A "Real Housewives of New Jersey" husband was charged by a grand jury Tuesday with one count of impersonation and one count of wrongfully using identifying information of another. Joe Giudice, who's married to Teresa Giudice, allegedly used his brother Pietro's documents to obtain a driver's license after his own was suspended. (EXPRESS)

ing information of another. Joe Giudice, who's married to Teresa Giudice, allegedly used his brother Pietro's documents to obtain a driver's license after his own was suspended. (EXPRESS)



ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

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CONFUSION

'What's A Sweat Shop?'

According to Star magazine and human-rights organization China Labor Watch, Kardashian-branded merchandise is being manufactured under sweatshop conditions. The Kardashians said Wednesday that they were taking the accusations seriously, then later in the day said the report was wrong. (EXPRESS)

Milestones

Next Stop, Libel!



Brooke Mueller's attorneys want to ban TMZ.com from Mueller's arraignment on charges of cocaine possession. Video cameras would "unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the court," they argue. (EXPRESS)



AWARDS

'Most Despicable Salahi' Win Could Still Go Either Way

Court papers filed by Michaela Salahi show she's asking for an immediate legal separation from husband Tareq Salahi, TMZ.com reported. She says she fled to now-boyfriend Neal Schon in part out of fear for her safety. Tareq Salahi told TMZ that his wife is "a chronic liar." (EXPRESS)



"Did she get fired, watch the show turn to GAR-BAGE and then TAKE ALL THEIR MONEY???"

— CHARLIE SHEEN, WRITING TO E! NEWS ABOUT WHY HE, NOT KATE MIDDLETON, SHOULD BE THE NETWORK'S "CELEB OF THE YEAR."

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